City of Richmond Hill
Historic Resources Survey Report

Prepared for the City of Richmond Hill and the
Richmond Hill Historic Preservation Commission

by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey was performed between December of 2018 to March of 2019 as an effort to comprehensively survey the historic resources within the city limits of Richmond Hill. The survey boundaries include the areas highlighted in blue (Figure 1). In all, the survey gathered information on 345 resources to include buildings, structures, objects, sites, and landscape features constructed before 1978 within the city limits.

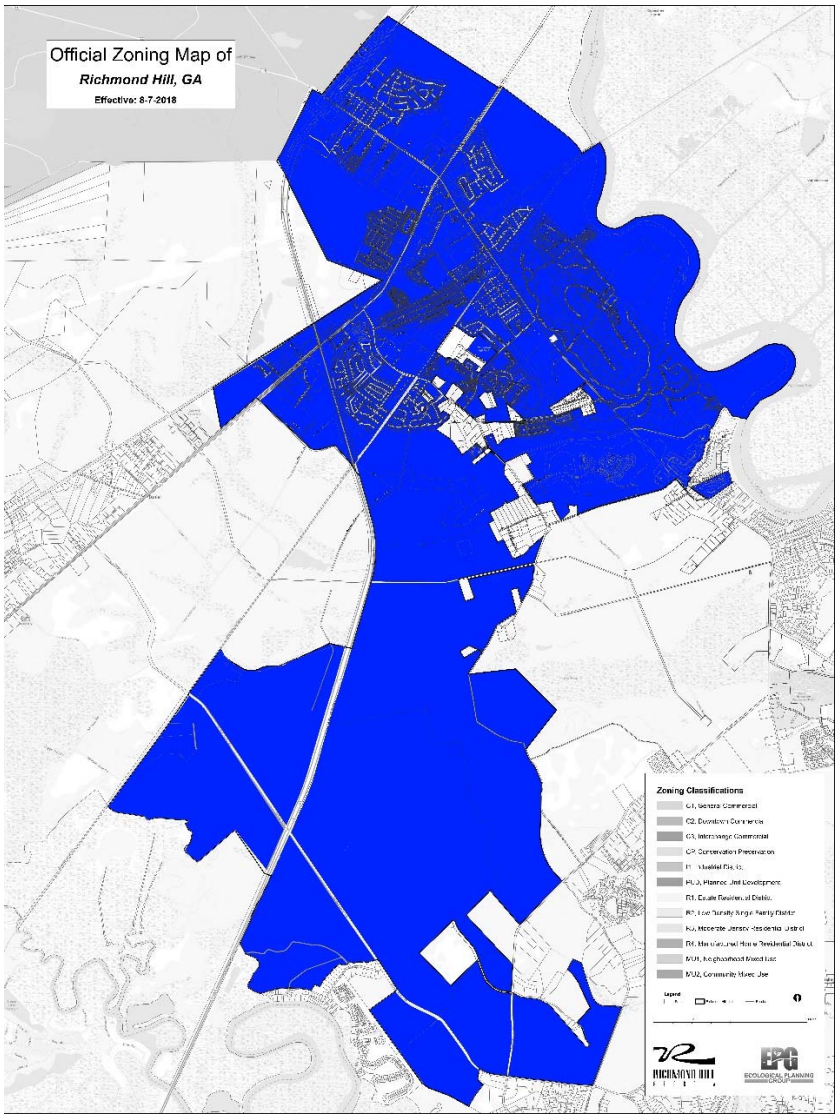

Figure 1: Area surveyed in Historic Resources Survey in blue (City of Richmond Hill).[1]

By examining a list of resources surveyed, several significant periods of development are revealed, spanning the rice plantation era, freedmen resettlement, turn of the century vernacular life, the relocation of families and buildings for the creation of Fort Stewart, town development by automobile magnate Henry Ford, automobile culture and the construction of Highway 17, the post-World War II housing boom, and suburban expansion.

[1] City of Richmond Hill, "Official Zoning Map."

Based on a reconnaissance survey and data provided by Bryan County, it was estimated that 267 resources would be surveyed.

Located southwest of the city of Savannah, Richmond Hill sits just south of the Ogeechee River, in an area often referred to as the Ogeechee Neck (Figure 2). Bounded to the west by the Fort Stewart Army Base, the city has expanded to the south and north. Encompassed within the city's bounds is nine miles of Highway 17 and two discrete portions of Interstate 95. Bisecting the city is State Route 144, which connects Keller to Fort Stewart and beyond. All of these locational factors have contributed to the town's continued success and recent growth. The population of the city, totaling roughly 12,500 residents, grows annually.

Covering almost fifteen square miles, Richmond Hill is largely characterized by river basins once used for the propagation of crops, private estates and recreational ports, a growing commercial core, a highway crossroads, and suburban development.

The soil associated with the Ogeechee basin is rich, black, and alluvial. This, paired with the humid, subtropical climate of tidewater Georgia, provides an ideal environment for dense vegetation which includes live oak, red cedar, magnolia, holly, gum, and pine trees. Below, palmetto, sabal palm, and wax myrtle fringe the marshes, provide a good habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Figure 2: Richmond Hill's location within Bryan County and the state of Georgia.

Historically, the greatest advantage of the soil, was its suitability for the growth of rice. This led to the first land grants and subsequent plantation growth, which would inspire many others to move to the region. Old field boundaries are still discernable in modern aerial photography by distinctive vegetation lines.[2]

The highest concentrations of historic resources are clustered around areas intentionally developed by Henry Ford to include the area in and around his estate, the neighborhoods of Blueberry Village and Richmond Hill Village; the latter of which encompasses the residential area known as "The Bottom" and the commercial area along Ford Avenue. Other clusters of historic development include the Brisbon community and Holly Hill. Established after the Civil War, only a few buildings remain from the early African-American settlement of Brisbon. Holly Hill is a small subdivision off Bryan Neck Road that dates to the 1950s and 60s.

The area around the Ford estate, also known as Ford Plantation, is characterized largely by planned development from the early 2000s to include houses, recreational facilities, aged live oaks, and a smattering of historic buildings retained and restored by Henry Ford during the 1930s and 40s. Limited to 400 home sites, the planned community stretches across 1,800 acres.

Outside the walls of Ford Plantation, Richmond Hill is characterized by dense development and rural land. While much of the land within the city has been developed, more has been recently annexed into the

[2] Brockington & Associates. "The Ford Plantation Project: Archaeological Data Recovery at Cherry Hill Plantation."

city's bounds, growing the amount of rural, undeveloped land. Those areas that have been annexed, however, are slated for development in the short term. Historically, Bryan County was home to plantations and later clusters of family settlements as seen in Clarktown. By the mid-twentieth century, more formal town planning in a grid-like fashion was initiated by Henry Ford, as evidenced in the design of Blueberry Village and The Bottom. Since that time, residential neighborhoods in Richmond Hill have taken on curvilinear forms to include traffic circles and cul-de-sacs, often with greater density and smaller house lots.

Together, both Interstate 95 and the Seaboard Air Line railroad, serve as book ends for the city's commercial core. Prior to the construction of the interstate, Highway 17 served as the western end of the district. Necessitated by geography and the location of residential growth, commercial development has grown in a linear fashion along both Ford Avenue and Highway 17. It is the intersection of these two thoroughfares that was historically known as the crossroads. With the construction of Highway 17 in 1915, development spread north and south along this corridor to include motels, restaurants, and gas stations. Since, development has consisted mainly of infill construction within existing commercial blocks, strip mall development, and chain retail stores in stand alone new builds.

Previous historic resource survey work was completed in 2001 by former masters student Josh Ward and in 2009 as part of the FindIt program for Bryan County. Of those previously surveyed, 25 resources were lost, largely due to neglect and subsequent deterioration. It should be noted, however, that a significant number of historic buildings from the tenure of Henry Ford were lost prior to 2001, their locations documented in historic photographs. Many of these photographs have been published by authors such as Dr. Leslie Long and Buddy Sullivan. The reasons for their loss vary, however, it is believed that many were located where new development was to follow.

The breakdown of resources recorded within the survey area by type is as follows: 333 buildings, 1 structure, 1 object, 7 sites, and 3 landscape features. Building on data gathered in the 2001 survey of Richmond Hill and the 2009 survey of Bryan County, 157 previously surveyed resources were updated in the Georgia Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources Geographic Information System (GNAHRGIS). Only the GNAHRGIS fields that represented the features of these resources that were altered since 2001 or 2009 were updated. Additionally, 188 resources were assigned new GNAHRGIS identification numbers. Resources less than 40 years old were not entered into GNAHRGIS.

Included in the above totals are resources that were previously surveyed that have since been demolished. The total number of resources that no longer remain on the landscape, but were surveyed in 2001 or 2009, is 25.

Richmond Hill Plantation is the only resource listed on the National Register of Historic Places within the survey boundary. Listed in 1978, the site's bounds were later increased in 2003 to include the caretaker's house, garage, oyster house, chute building, sterling marsh, confederate battery, and two archaeological sites. The servants' quarters, associated with the 1978 nomination, have been lost.

For a detailed map of the survey area, see Appendix 2.

SECTION 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey was performed as part of a citywide effort initiated by the City of Richmond Hill and led by the Historic Preservation Commission to identify and survey an estimated 267 buildings, structures, sites, objects, and landscape features constructed before 1978 within the city limits. The survey was funded by the City of Richmond Hill and the Georgia Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Department of Natural Resources. All fieldwork and data entry were performed by Secretary of the Interior qualified Architectural Historians Rebecca Fenwick, who served as Principal Investigator, and Ellie Isaacs, who served as Investigative Assistant, both of Lominack Kolman Smith Architects of Savannah, Georgia.

A total of 345 resources within the survey area outlined in Figure 1 were documented and entered into GNAHRGIS. It is believed that the area has been comprehensively surveyed to include buildings, sites, objects, landscape features, and structures over 40 years of age.

The intensive-level field survey was performed by Lominack Kolman Smith between December 2018 and March 2019. Rebecca Fenwick and Ellie Isaacs recorded all surveyed resources through high-quality digital photography and field recorded data on Georgia Historic Resources Survey forms for use with GNAHRGIS. Each GNAHRGIS data entry includes a minimum of two photographs, unless this proved impossible due to limited visibility. Appendix 1 lists each resource's GNAHRGIS number, resource type, resource name, address, parcel number, current use, date of construction, architectural style, and building type. A compilation of large-scale maps of the survey area (1' = 200') have been included with parcels and addresses of surveyed resources identified (Appendix 2).

The results of this project are the completion of data entry of the 345 resources surveyed in GNAHRGIS, survey maps at 1' = 200' scale, and this survey report. A hard copy of the map and survey report, as well as a digital copy on CD, are on file with the HPD.

SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS PRESERVATION PROJECTS

Perhaps the earliest Richmond Hill historic preservationists were Henry and Clara Ford. While the construction of their house involved the demolition of the 1850 Hermitage Plantation in Savannah, the bricks, which were made on site at the Hermitage, were used to construct the Ford-era Richmond Hill Plantation house. Now located in Dearborn, Michigan at Ford's Greenfield Village, the circa 1820 slave quarters associated with the Hermitage Plantation were deconstructed and rebuilt in Michigan as part of the museum's exhibits.[3]

Within proximity of his new home, Henry Ford restored the **Richmond Plantation Rice Mill (GNAHRGIS #262558)** for use as his personal office and powerhouse as well as the Cherry Hill slave cabins associated with the plantation. With the establishment of the planned community at Ford Plantation in recent years, the slave cabins were lost.

Henry Ford also acquired several other Bryan County landmarks, and is attributed with the restoration of Fort McAllister, Kilkenny Plantation, and Strathy Hall Plantation, all of which were restored in the 1920s and 30s.

It was not until the 1990s that historic preservation in Richmond Hill grew in earnest.

One early preservation action was the listing of **Richmond Hill Plantation (GNAHRGIS #262545)** on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The house was unoccupied at the time, although owned by George P. Tobler of Smithtown, New York. The nomination form was completed by Beth Lattimore Reiter, the Historic Preservation Planner for the City of Savannah. Not long after the listing, the house was converted for use as a restaurant.

In 1981, following the purchase of the plantation by Saudi Arabian entrepreneur Ghaith Pharaon, the house was renovated for use as his private residence to include the incorporation of the garden, pool, entry drive, and grass lawn visible on the grounds today. Other changes completed by Pharaon included the relocation and renovation of the **Cherry Hill Plantation House (GNAHRGIS #262513).** It was at this time the house's Greek Revival porches were added.

The 1980s also saw the relocation of the **Former Post Office (GNAHRGIS #1432)** from Ford Avenue to 114 Parkwood Ave, in The Bottom neighborhood. Moved to accommodate the construction of a new convenience store, the building was repurposed as a residence. Today, the building is perpendicular to the street, in comparison to its original orientation.

In 1990, Dr. Leslie and Lucy Long along with Buck and Bertie Rahn, among others, formed the Richmond Hill Historical Society. Housed today in the **Ford Kindergarten (GNAHRGIS #1353),** the mission of the organization is to inspire and educate people on Richmond Hill's richly diverse past. The group renovated the kindergarten for use as a museum in 1995.

Around this same time, the **Bryan County Courthouse Annex (GNAHRGIS #1357)** was acquired by the County for use as the Richmond Hill Senior Center, following its use as the Richmond Hill City Hall.

In 1998, the oral history documentation project known as "Ford Era Memories" was filmed by members of the Richmond Hill Historical Society. Interviewing descendants of the plantation era as well as people

[3] "Hermitage Slave Quarters." Ford Benson Research Center. https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/268474/#slide=gs-227696

who worked for Henry Ford or grew up in the town, this effort recorded valuable first and second person accounts of life in early twentieth century Richmond Hill. It has since been converted to DVD.

It was during this decade that the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) performed large format black and white photography of numerous resources in Bryan County to include **Richmond Hill Plantation (GNAHRGIS #262545)**, the **Ford Ice House (GNAHRGIS #262537)**, and the **Ford Oyster House (GNARHGIS #262536),** to name a few. This record, available as part of the Library of Congress online database, also includes images of buildings that were lost since this time such as the **Site of Ford Lettuce Packing Shed (GNAHRGIS #262415).**

The late 1990s were pivotal for the recording of Richmond Hill's history. In 1998, Dr. Franklin Leslie Long and Lucy B. Long published *The Henry Ford* Era, a photographic log of historical images from the Ford era, each paired with short narratives. In 1999, historian Buddy Sullivan published the text *From Beautiful Zion to Red Bird Creek*, the first comprehensive history of Bryan County rooted in intensive primary source research.

With the founding of the Ford Plantation planned community, several historic resources associated with Henry Ford were preserved, set within the bounds of the development. In 1999, the **Richmond Hill Plantation (GNAHRGIS #262545)** house was renovated for use as a clubhouse. Additionally, the **Ford Ice House (GNAHRGIS #262537)** was moved adjacent to the **Ford Oyster House (GNARHGIS #262536)** for preservation. Adjacent to these buildings is an original corn crib and outhouse that were likewise moved to the site at this time as well as an open-air pavilion built of wood from the dismantled **Ford Lettuce Packing Shed (GNAHRGIS #262415).** The pavilion currently houses a birds of prey exhibit.

In 2001, the City of Richmond Hill purchased the **J.F. Gregory House (GNAHRGIS #1356)** as part of its municipal complex, renovating it for use by the Planning and Zoning Department. Other buildings preserved by the City include the **Parker House (GNAHRGIS #262894)**. Moved to its current site, the Parks and Recreation Department is now housed within its walls.

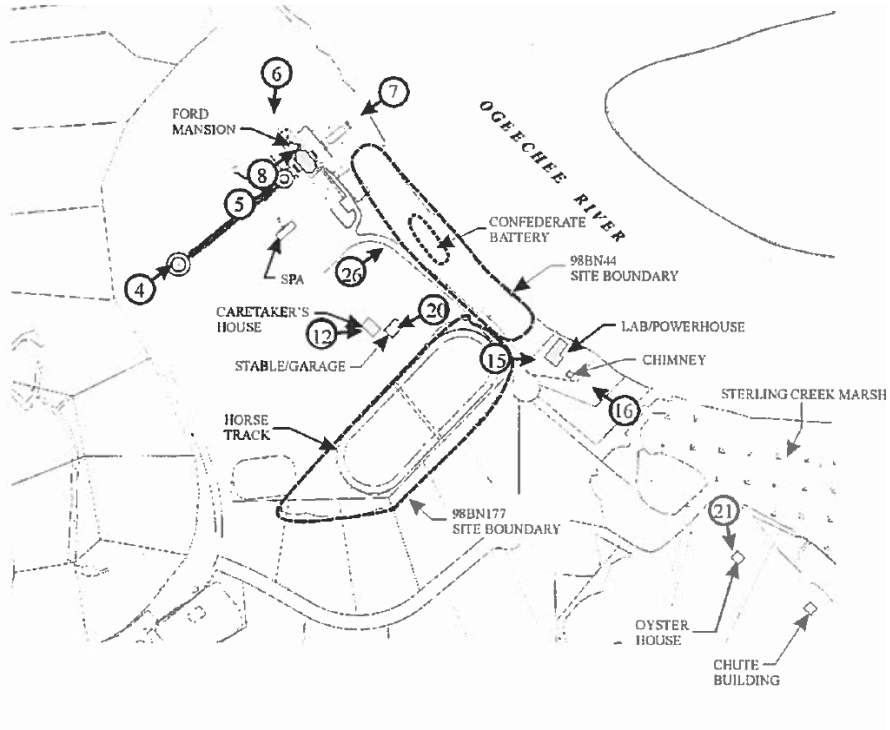

Figure 3: Excerpt from the photo log included as part of the Richmond Hill Plantation National Register Nomination Boundary Increase, 2002 (Brockington & Associates).

In 2003, the boundary of the Richmond Hill Plantation National Register nomination was expanded. Initiated by the Ford Plantation development company, the nomination expansion was written by Patricia Stallings of Brockington & Associates. This text not only included additional information on the resources already listed, such as the mansion and the **Richmond Plantation Rice Mill (GNAHRGIS #262558)**, but also the **Servants House (GNAHRGIS #262569),** the **Ford Garage (GNAHRGIS #262571)**, the **Ford Oyster House (GNARHGIS #262536)**, the **Ford Ice House (GNAHRGIS #262537)**, Sterling Marsh, the **Richmond (Confederate) Battery (GNAHRGIS #262568)**, and two archaeological sites (Figure 3). Brockington & Associates not only completed this boundary expansion nomination, but also multiple archaeological digs and reports for Dublin, Silk Hope, and Cherry Hill Plantations.

Private homeowners have also rehabilitated historic resources within the bounds of the Ford Plantation including the **Caretaker's House (GNAHRGIS #262414),** the conversion of the **Richmond Plantation Rice Mill (GNAHRGIS #262558)** for use as a private home, and the maintenance and preservation of both the **Cherry Hill Cemetery (GNAHRGIS #262425)** and the **Richmond Hill Cemetery (GNAHRGIS #262541)** by descendants. At the time of survey, the **Servant's House (GNAHRGIS #262569)** at 141 Rice Mill Lane was undergoing rehabilitation.

In 2011, the Richmond Hill Historical Society worked with the City of Richmond Hill to install several markers recognizing historic buildings along Ford Avenue as part of the Coastal Bryan Heritage Trail. This effort continued in 2014 when the second round of historical markers were added along the Avenue for a total of eighteen markers.

In 2012, **Bailey Carpenter's Barbershop (GNAHRGIS #262754)** was moved to its current location, adjacent to the **Ford Kindergarten (GNAHRGIS #1353)** for preservation and inclusion as a site associated with the Richmond Hill Historical Society Museum.

An initiative of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, a guidebook and cell phone driving tour app were developed as part of the Coastal Bryan Heritage Trail, highlighting historic resources along Ford Avenue in addition to Strathy Hall and sites along Belfast River Road, Bryan Neck Road, and Fort McAllister Road.

In April of 2015, the City created both the Ford and Gateway Overlay areas along Ford Avenue and Highway 17 in order to better regulate new construction and renovation, when renovation work exceeds 50% of the value of the building. To govern these districts, the City established the Architectural Review Board (ARB). This group is charged with providing guidance and recommendations regarding the design and aesthetic qualities of the natural and built environment. Further, at the close of 2015, the City established the Richmond Hill Downtown Development Authority to promote the revitalization and redevelopment of the central business district.

In 2018, following many years of growing interest in historic preservation, the City of Richmond Hill unanimously adopted a historic preservation ordinance, establishing the City's first Historic Preservation Commission.

Photo 1: The Ford Bakery (GNAHRGIS #262725) following the completion of renovation efforts in 2019. Photo by Russ Bryant Photography.

Municipal preservation efforts continued and in 2019 the **Ford Bakery (GNAHRGIS #262725)** was rehabilitated for use as the Richmond Hill Convention and Visitors Bureau office, following the

building's purchase by the City in 2016 (Photo 1). The rehabilitation garnered recognition from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, which awarded the building a Preservation Award in 2019.

Although not recognized as formal historic preservation efforts, many businesses have served as stewards of Richmond Hill's historic buildings, retaining and reusing the city's historic buildings. Ameris Bank, Coastal Community Christian Church, St. Anne Catholic Church, and the Carter Funeral Home are a handful of such businesses. Likewise, it should be recognized that the retention and reuse of numerous historic houses throughout the city has meant their preservation. This is to the credit of many descendants of the original homeowners, who remain residents of dwellings in Blueberry Village and The Bottom.

SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

The first occupants of the area known as Richmond Hill were Native Americans who traversed the land as early as 11,500 years ago. The oldest archaeological artifact located within the city's bounds is a Paleoindian projectile point recovered in a dig completed at Dublin, later Richmond Plantation. The presence of this point suggests that Paleoindians occupied the area for a long period of time, benefiting from the local tidal estuarine and marsh. Further, archaeological evidence shows that the area's Prehistoric sites range from the Late Woodland through the Late Mississippian periods. Additional artifacts recovered show occupation from the

- Archaic stage (8500-1000 BC),
- Woodland stage (1000 BC – AD 900),
- Mississippian stage (AD 900-1600), and
- Protohistoric stage (1600-1800).

During the Archaic stage, settlements became more sedentary with greater exploitation of tidal and marsh resources. Scattered ceramics from the Woodland and Mississippian periods have been recovered at Cherry Hill and Silk Hope as well as projectile points at Silk Hope. The only Protohistoric artifacts found were colonoware assemblages, which were utilized by African-Americans.[4] These conclusions have largely been informed by the archaeology performed in conjunction with the creation of the Ford Plantation planned community, for which there are three associated reports.

At the time of European arrival to the Georgia coast, several Guale Indian chiefdoms existed between the Savannah and Altamaha rivers. The Guale were later categorized by historians as Late Mississippian peoples. With the arrival of the Spaniards in the early sixteenth century, the native peoples were cultivating corn, beans, squash, and other crops. One of the earliest discoveries of Indian activity in Bryan County was recorded by Clarence Bloomfield Moore who concentrated five months of survey work on Indian mounds on the Georgia coast in 1896. Because Indian villages tended to be located along tidal creeks and rivers, Spanish settlements adopted a similar pattern.[5]

The Native Americans were called the "Creeks" by the Europeans because they lived along the creeks and small waterways of the coastal region. They referred to themselves as Este Muskokee, a loosely organized nation stretching from Florida to the Carolinas. A small tribe called Yamacraw were also settled in the Savannah area at the time of European arrival.[6]

The first European to arrive on the land that would become Bryan County was Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon, who visited the area in 1526. Ayllon had a contract from King Charles V to explore and establish a colony on the southeast American coast. A voyage to identify a site brought him to Bryan County, although he did not settle there. His colony, in or near Sapelo Sound, predated St. Augustine, Florida by 39 years; Jamestown, Virginia by 81 years; and the English settlement of Georgia by 207 years. Whether later Spanish missions were ever located in Bryan County is unknown.[7]

The arrival of the English begins in earnest in June of 1732 when a royal charter is granted to the King's designated Trustees, providing for the creation of a new colony of Georgia. On February 12, 1733, James

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[4] Brockington & Associates. "The Ford Plantation Project: Archaeological Data Recovery at Silk Hope Plantation."
[5] Buddy Sullivan. From Beautiful Zion to Red Bird Creek.
[6] McCaskey, The View from Sterling Bluff, Page 9.
[7] Buddy Sullivan. From Beautiful Zion to Red Bird Creek.

Figure 4: Sketch of Fort Argyle (Coastal Bryan Heritage Trail Guidebook).

Edward Oglethorpe arrived with the first 114 colonists at Yamacraw Bluff to begin developing the town of Savannah. It is at this time that Fort Argyle was established in Bryan County (Figure 4). Placed at the confluence of the Ogeechee and Canoochee Rivers, the fort was built by Oglethorpe in 1733 to protect the southern approaches to Savannah. It is in this area that some of the early permanent settlements in Bryan County were established.[8]

The first land grant to be issued within the area known today as Richmond Hill was to the Sterling brothers of Savannah in 1734. It is believed that this area covered the south bluff of Sterling Creek, known as Sterling Bluff. By 1761, however, they had abandoned this land.

Permanent settlement of the Ogeechee Neck ultimately began in the 1740s and 1750s as Oglethorpe granted 6,000 acres along the Ogeechee River to Captain John Williams, an English Ranger, calling on him to recruit settlers from Virginia. Known as "The Williams Reserve," the area lay along the west side of the Ogeechee River, extending north and south along Sterling Creek, including the area associated with the early Sterling brothers grant.

There were several early limitations imposed on the Georgia colony, related to land ownership, labor, production, and trade. By 1750, however, the Trustees had repealed many of these regulations, allowing for the accumulation of larger tracts of land as well as the legalization of slavery.[9] After this date, agricultural pursuits in Bryan County were cemented to include the cultivation of rice and indigo, the grazing of livestock, and timbering. As noted by scholar William W. Abbot, "Anyone able to make a start as a rice planter in Georgia prior to the Revolution, with luck, became in a few years a man of wealth and power in the province."[10]

One of the driving factors for the development of the land that would become Richmond Hill was its proximity to the Ogeechee River. With the rise and fall of the tidal marsh, the soil of Bryan County was particularly suitable for the cultivation of rice, allowing it to become the region's primary cash crop. Following the establishment of land grants, Bryan County would hold some of the region's most productive plantations, owned by many of Georgia's leading aristocrat families of the planter class, including the Clays, Maxwells, McAllisters, and Arnolds.

[8] Buddy Sullivan. From Beautiful Zion to Red Bird Creek.
[9] Brockington & Associates. "The Ford Plantation Project: Archaeological Data Recovery at Silk Hope Plantation."
[10] William W. Abbott. The Royal Governors of Georgia, 24.

Figure 5: Layout of Plantations in the 1780s in Bryan County (Brockington & Associates)[11]

The earliest rice plantations were Silk Hope, owned by Thomas Savage, and Dublin (later Richmond), owned by the Harns, and later the Habershams (Figure 5). These and other tracts farmed by slaves, would subsequently become the most productive and prolific plantations of Bryan County.

Dublin (later Richmond) Plantation

A land grant was awarded to Scotsman John Harn in 1748, totaling 500 acres, north of Sterling Creek. It is on this site that Harn and his wife Elizabeth establish Dublin Plantation, later named Richmond.[12] Two plantation houses were associated with Dublin Plantation, neither of which remain. Harn and his wife had nine children, cultivating the land with the help of 28 slaves. It was likely that Harn initiated some of the first rice agriculture on the Ogeechee in Bryan County.[13] In addition to rice cultivation, he built levees and canals and planted Mulberry and Live Oak trees.

Although the planting of live oaks at Richmond Plantation in the shape of an "H" has been attributed to him, these trees were likely planted later by the Clay family, due to their size and positioning.[14] Throughout his life, Harn was involved in positions related to tax assessment and collection, highway survey, fort and defense establishment, and the creation of ferry service. The same year Harn acquired the land grant, he was appointed by James Oglethorpe to survey and open a road from the west side of the Ogeechee River to the headwaters of the Medway River.

In 1764, John Harn sold Dublin plantation to John Maxwell, one of the largest landholders on the Ogeechee Neck. Subsequently, Maxwell divided the land, developing a 300 acre tract as Cherry Hill Plantation.

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[11] Ibid. Page 35
[12] Buddy Sullivan. From Beautiful Zion to Red Bird Creek.
[13] Brockington & Associates. "The Ford Plantation Project: Archaeological Data Recovery at Cherry Hill Plantation."
[14] Ibid.

Upon his death, Maxwell left the plantation to his son, John Butler Maxwell. John Butler Maxwell married Elizabeth Young, the widow of Thomas Young of Kilkenny Plantation on Bryan Neck. Mary, the daughter of John Butler and Elizabeth, inherited Dublin and Cherry Hill and married Lachlan McIntosh. In 1803 Mary and Lachlan McIntosh leased both plantations to Joseph Habersham, son of prominent colonial official and later Revolutionary leader James Habersham. During the war, Dublin and Cherry Hill were confiscated by the new State of Georgia government. After refusing allegiance to either side, John and the Maxwell family were forced to flee the United States following John's condemnation and banishment.

Raymond Demere was the next to occupy Dublin. A Georgia delegate to the Second Continental Congress and a Major in the Georgia militia during the war, he was a strong patriot. Living at Dublin as early as 1784, he passed away in 1791. Following his death, the property was forced into foreclosure, and it was discovered that although he had taken out a mortgage on the property, he never owned the land. As a result, John Butler Maxwell's daughter Mary and her husband Lachlan McIntosh filed suit against Demere's estate.[15]

In 1821, the widowed Mary Savage Clay, with her son Thomas Savage Clay purchased Dublin Plantation from Mary McIntosh. Thomas changed the name from Dublin to Richmond, a popular plantation name at the time, often referring to it as the "Richmond-on-the-Ogeechee." By 1838, he had built a new house at Richmond, moving his family from their home at Tranquilla Plantation. After purchasing Tivoli Plantation, twelve miles south, the Clays would live at Richmond only during the winter months. Following additional acquisitions, Thomas Savage Clay became one of the wealthiest and largest landowners in Bryan County owning 7,752 acres.

Figure 6: 1838 Sketch of the Richmond Plantation slave quarters (Brockington & Associates).

Clay took considerable concern in the housing of his slaves, composing the treatise "Detail of A Plan for the Moral Improvement of Negroes on Plantations." He felt that the dwellings should be arranged in a way favorable to the circulation of air and cleanliness. Only sketches exist today of the slave dwellings at Richmond (Figure 6). Thomas passed away in 1849, leaving plantation management to his sister, Eliza Caroline Clay.

During the Civil War, the Clay family fled to South Georgia. Thomas C. Clay, son of Thomas Savage Clay, is famously reported to have cut the portraits of his parents out of their frames before fleeing on horseback. Federal troops burned the Richmond Plantation house the following day. The outbuildings and slave dwellings however were spared.

After returning to the war-torn plantation, Eliza lived in the overseer's house until 1869. Joseph Clay, another son of Thomas Savage Clay, returned to Richmond in 1869, continuing rice cultivation. He invested in a steam powered rice threshing mill for the property, the **Richmond**

[15] Brockington & Associates. "The Ford Plantation Project: Archaeological Data Recovery at Cherry Hill Plantation."

Plantation Rice Mill (GNAHRGIS #262558). Without slave labor, profits were meager and eventually the operation ceased, leaving the mill in ruin by the 1880s. By the turn of the century, all of the rice fields along the Ogeechee Neck had been abandoned.[16]

Upon her death, Eliza conveyed Richmond Plantation to her nephew and niece, Thomas and Caroline, in her will. Thomas consolidated ownership in 1919 and in 1920 sold the land to Henry D. Weed.

Cherry Hill Plantation

Following Harn's sale of 300 acres in 1764, Maxwell further developed Cherry Hill Plantation, constructing a levee and the first drainage canals on Cherry Hill Marsh. He is also likely to have initiated the planting of the **Cherry Hill Plantation Oak Allee (GNAHRGIS #262499).**

John Maxwell's daughter, Mary McIntosh sold Cherry Hill Plantation in 1817 to Raymond P. Demere, Raymond Demere's son. The property, however, was soon deeded back to her through foreclosure. It was then purchased by Samuel M. Bond, who in turn sold Cherry Hill and its 63 remaining slaves to Richard James Arnold. A native of Rhode Island, Arnold also owned White Hall and Mulberry Hill Plantations.

By 1858, Arnold had acquired nearly all of the rice land between Cherry Hill and the Ogeechee River Causeway apart from the portion of Silk Hope owned by William Way, who refused to sell. According to the U.S. agricultural census of 1860, Arnold owned 11,000 acres with 195 slaves, cultivating rice, sugar cane, and Sea Island cotton. These were the largest of the lower Ogeechee's rice yields, totaling 665,000 pounds in 1859.[17]

At the onset of the Civil War, Arnold sold his Bryan County holdings to his son, Thomas Clay Arnold to prevent them from being taken. Thomas C. Arnold purchased the other half of Silk Hope from William Way in 1863. During Sherman's siege, he moved his family and all of the slaves from Cherry Hill and White Hall to property he owns in Montgomery County.

It was during this time that all of the rice barns at Cherry Hill, Richmond, and Sterling Bluff were burned, to prevent their seizure by Union forces. As a result, Union Major General Judson Kilpatrick set fire to the residences at Cherry Hill, Richmond, and Sterling Bluff, along with Arnold's rice mill and plantation equipment. Only the slave dwellings were spared.

In June of 1865 Arnold releases all of his slaves and returned to Rhode Island. The land owned by the Arnolds in Bryan County was confiscated by Sherman who designated "abandoned rice fields" as property to be distributed to former slaves. This did not last however, as Arnold, like most pre-war southern planters, fought the order.

By 1866, Arnold had rebuilt the Cherry Hill rice mill. With additional land he had acquired during the war, Arnold became the most productive rice planter in Georgia, producing over a million pounds of rice by 1870. Only the Heyward family of South Carolina exceeded the amount of rice produced by the Arnolds in the post-war period.

[16] Brockington & Associates. "Data Recovery Excavations at Dublin/Richmond Plantation."
[17] Buddy Sullivan. Richmond Hill. Images of America.

Richard Arnold died in 1873. His son, William Eliot Arnold inherited Cherry Hill, constructed a new residence there in 1874, the **Cherry Hill Plantation House (GNAHRGIS #262513).** Thomas remained there until his death in 1875.

A portion of the Arnold lands were sold at auction to George Appleton, who turned them into a private hunting and fishing reserve. The rest were foreclosed upon and sold at auction to Paul T. Haskell. The land would never be planted for large scale rice production again. The levees were no longer maintained and much of the land was reclaimed by the Cherry Hill Marsh.

Although large scale planting ceased, many of the plantation lands were still used by the African-American community, as evidenced in the presence of twentieth-century graves at both the **Cherry Hill Cemetery (GNAHRGIS #262425)** and **Richmond Plantation Cemetery (GNAHRGIS #262541).**[18]

In 1904, Roy Rainy purchased the property. Both Haskell and Rainey were likely landlords to tenant farmers, who may have lived in the former slave quarters. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers map from this period shows seven structures, artesian wells, and roads on the Cherry Hill property. Rainey sold Cherry Hill to William Barnwell and Julian Chisolm in late 1919.[19]

In March of 1925, Henry Ford purchased both Cherry Hill and Richmond Plantation.[20]

In 1752, due to financial difficulties and pressure from the King, the Trustees relinquished their charter and Georgia became a royal colony. In 1758, Savannah County was divided into parishes with the Ogeechee Neck established as a part of St. Phillips Parish. It was not until 1793 that Bryan County was formed from parts of Liberty and Effingham Counties. The county's namesake and a South Carolina transplant, Jonathan Bryan, was the area's largest livestock holder. The earliest county meetings were held at Strathy Hall. The seat of government would later move to Cross Roads, the intersection of the Darien-Savannah Stage Road (later Hwy 17) and the Bryan Neck Road (later Ford Avenue).[21]

By the 1770s, Georgia had become an important agricultural colony, exporting rice, cotton, indigo, lumber, and naval stores. Likewise, Georgians had begun growing their own corn, potatoes, and peas. The expansion of existing coastal plantations, the development of upland cotton varieties, and the invention of the cotton gin in the late eighteenth century meant significant growth throughout the state.[22]

The completion of the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal near Kings Ferry in 1830 contributed to the county's agricultural success. This, followed by the establishment of the Savannah, Albany, and Gulf Railroad, linking Savannah with southwest Georgia, expanded markets. Tracks were laid across the Ogeechee into Bryan Neck in 1856. A train depot was built, known as "Ways No. 1 ½" for William J. Way, the first station master and a local rice planter who owned land on which the railroad passed. Subsequently, a

[18] Brockington & Associates. "The Ford Plantation Project: Archaeological Data Recovery at Cherry Hill Plantation."
[19] Ibid. A full chain-of-title is included in this report on Page 50.
[20] Brockington & Associates. "The Ford Plantation Project: Archaeological Data Recovery at Silk Hope Plantation."
[21] Buddy Sullivan. Richmond Hill. Images of America
[22] Brockington & Associates. "The Ford Plantation Project: Archaeological Data Recovery at Silk Hope Plantation."

settlement grew up between the railroad tracks and Cross Roads to the west. Cross Roads came to be known as Ways Station until the town was formally named Richmond Hill in 1941.[23]

In 1854, a devastating hurricane struck Ways Station. This, paired with an outbreak of yellow fever, meant the total loss of unharvested rice crops and the death of 560 people. Not long after, the plantations of Bryan County would be ravaged by the Civil War.

Following several naval threats to the southern approaches of Savannah, Fort McAllister was built in 1861. Located on the Ogeechee River at Genesis Point southeast of Ways Station, the Fort kept invaders at bay until December of 1864 when Bryan Neck was invaded by General William T. Sherman's forces.

The war brought many hardships to Bryan County. Many farmers became soldiers and crops were left unharvested in the fields. This disruption left markets in short supply. Although there was significant military activity in the region, Bryan County remained unscathed by battle until nearly the end of the conflict.

During the war, Confederate authorities ordered the construction of the **Richmond (Confederate) Battery (GNAHRGIS #262568).** At this battery, two guns were mounted, taken from the *C.S.S. Rattlesnake.* Situated on a high bluff at a bend in the river, the battery was well sited. Located in front of the Prayer House, Work House, Gin, Overseer's House, and the slave residences at Richmond Plantation, soldiers may have been quartered in these buildings. None of these buildings remain on the landscape today. Although never used in combat, the battery remains visible along the riverfront.

At the close of the war, emancipated slaves began to purchase their own land from the heirs of plantation owners. Richard J. Arnold became the most prominent freedmen and the largest landowner. Freedmen communities established at this time included Brisbon, Rabbit Hill, Port Royal, Oak Level, Fancy Hall, and Daniel Siding. Of these, only Brisbon is within the survey bounds, although few buildings remain. One landmark that anchors this community today is the **Zion Baptist Church (GNAHRGIS #1350)** at the corner of Brisbon Road and Harris Trail Road. Although vacant today, this 1940 concrete block structure is believed to have replaced an earlier frame praise house.

There is little recorded information about Brisbon, however, oral histories completed in the 1990s with community residents Alec Campbell and Charles H. Boles shed insight into life in early twentieth century Brisbon. Largely a rural area, Brisbon was made up of simple dwellings and farms that were two to five acres in size. All buildings were built of wood and many of them had a white-wash finish. Many swept their yards and kept cattle, hogs, and chickens. Other outbuildings included coops and smokehouses in addition to barns. Today, there are areas known as old and new Brisbon.[24]

The African-American community of Canaan later sprung up forming the Canaan Baptist Church in 1913, led by Reverend David Boles, Sr. and Deacon Brother Fred Gilbert. At the time of its inception it was the only organized denominational church in what is known today as Richmond Hill. Many of the congregants of the church were descendants of Cherry Hill and Silk Hope plantation slaves. In 1947, with financial assistance provided by Henry Ford, the congregation built its current structure, the **Canaan Missionary Baptist Church (GNAHRGIS #1361).**[25]

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[23] Text from Ways Station Historical Marker.
[24] "Alec Campbell and Charles Boles" Memories of Brisbon Community, Oral Histories Series. Richmond Hill Historical Society. 2010.
[25] Text from Canaan Church Historical Marker.

Many freedmen remained employed by area rice plantations, contributing to their prosperity.[26] Gradually, however, rice production dwindled in the face of competition from Louisiana and the increasing cost of labor. Labor strife, including the Ogeechee Freedmen's Insurrection of 1868-1869 and the hurricanes of 1881 and 1893 contributed to an eventual decline in rice production that occurred all along the Georgia coast. By 1920 there was little to no rice production in the state.[27]

Richmond Hill and the Ford Experiment

Although the exact date cannot be confirmed, the month of March of 1925 forever changed the town of Ways Station. Over the course of the next two decades, Henry Ford would transform the town into the city of Richmond Hill, becoming a source for community employment, housing, healthcare, and education.

Although still a small village in a poor, rural section of the coast, the newly constructed Coastal Highway 17 connected Savannah to Ways Station via seventeen miles of newly planned road by the 1920s. Two railroads however still passed through Ways Station. With the fall of the rice industry and the closing of the Hilton-Dodge sawmill at Belfast just before WWI, Ways Station had fallen on difficult times. Bryan Neck was one of the poorest sections of coastal Georgia at the time of Ford's arrival. The primary vocational opportunities for people on Bryan Neck were subsistence agriculture, turpentining, small-scale sawmilling, and moonshining. Poverty, illiteracy, and hardship were common.

Ford was first introduced to the Georgia coast in 1917 when friend and naturalist John Burroughs shared the area's rich bird and wild animal life with him. His interest grew and eventually he brought his wife Clara to visit some of the old plantation sites on the Ogeechee River. Struck by the beauty of the area, Clara was determined to build a winter home in the plantation style on Bryan Neck. Ford likewise saw an opportunity after determining that the climate would be suitable for the cultivation of goldenrod.

Ford's friendship with Henry Firestone spurred this interest. Firestone had great interest in finding a domestic substitute for the rubber plants the automobile industry and Ford depended on. Working with Thomas Edison, who had performed related experiments unsuccessfully in Florida, Ford saw the abandoned rice fields of Bryan Neck as an area of opportunity.

After instructing his private secretary, Frank Campsall to inquire about portions of Cherry Hill, Richmond, and Strathy Hall plantations that were for sale, realtor R.L. Cooper began negotiations and by March of 1925, the first one hundred acres of land had been purchased with options to buy additional acreage. The price was roughly $20 an acre. Over the course of several months, Ford's agents would acquire over 16,000 acres on Bryan Neck, including Silk Hope, Cherry Hill, Richmond, Strathy Hall, Orange Grove, and White Hall tracts. In total, Ford would acquire twenty former plantation properties on Bryan Neck totaling 85,000 acres, 530 smaller parcels, and the site of Fort McAllister.

After falling on depressed times, many people were willing to sell their property and Ford was willing to pay a fair price. A few were unwilling, however, such as the Miners, who owned property at the "crossroads" intersection of Coastal Highway 17 and Bryan Neck Road (later Ford Avenue) to include the **Miner House (GNAHRGIS #262908).**

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[26] Buddy Sullivan. Richmond Hill. Images of America

[27] Brockington & Associates. "The Ford Plantation Project: Archaeological Data Recovery at Cherry Hill Plantation."

After forming a research corporation with Harvey Firestone and Thomas Edison, Ford began to explore the development and use of the goldenrod plant as a substitute for rubber. Following Edison's death in 1931, Ford enlisted the help of one of Edison's understudies, Harry G. Ukkelberg to continue experimental work at Ways Station. In 1936, Firestone pulled out of the project. Following, Ford would scale down his experiments with the plant. The **Dr. Ukkelberg House (GNAHRGIS #1364)** sits at 10982 Ford Avenue.

Photo 2: Although originally conceived as a place to grow goldenrod as a substitute for rubber, Ford found success in the cultivation of iceberg lettuce, growing the crop on former rice fields.[28] This image shows the Lettuce Packing Shed and the Ford Ice House (GNAHRGIS #262537) in the 1990s. Since, the shed has been demolished and the ice house moved (Library of Congress).

In 1937, with the help of Ford's superintendent and general manager, John F. (Jack) Gregory, Ford had an experimental laboratory built to work on the reuse of farm waste. Here, Ukkelberg worked with soybean flour and the extraction of starch and alcohol from sweet potatoes. In former rice fields, Ukkelberg oversaw the cultivation of English peas, carrots, cucumbers, Irish potatoes, turnips, mustard, broccoli, rutabagas, onions, cabbages, and beets. No other crop was more successful than iceberg lettuce. Adopting this as a staple crop, Ford entered the lettuce business, with Richmond Hill Plantation, Inc. producing as much as 8,400 crates of lettuce in a season for a profit of $12,122 (figure 7). Many other crops were tested and explored by Ford over the course of his tenure in Bryan County.

The laboratory burned in 1941 and Ukkelberg was reassigned to supervise farming operations. During the World War II years, he was directed to solely concentrate on food production, specifically lettuce, potatoes, beans, and other truck crops.

Henry and Clara Ford generally came to Ways Station for one to two months at a time, typically in the spring. Jack Gregory, a former associate of Ford's real estate agent R.L. Cooper, was hired to oversee all of Ford's activities in Richmond Hill. Today, the **J.F. Gregory House (GNAHRGIS #1356)** is used by

[28] National Museum of American History. https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/2013/07/re-tooling-society-a-lesser-known-side-of-henry-ford.html

the City of Richmond Hill as the Planning and Zoning Department office. A year-round manager, Gregory became a respected person within the community, often referred to by his subordinates as the "King of Richmond Hill Plantation."

Between 1930 and 1945, some 292 buildings were built in Ways Station under Ford's directives (Figure 7). One of the earliest buildings constructed was the sawmill. Surrounded by 46,000 acres of timber land, Ways Station was a suitable location for a mill. Built to provide lumber for the construction of buildings, the sawmill was erected adjacent to the Seaboard Air Line railroad tracks. Well established by 1936, lumbering and sawmilling became the chief industrial activity in Ways Station.

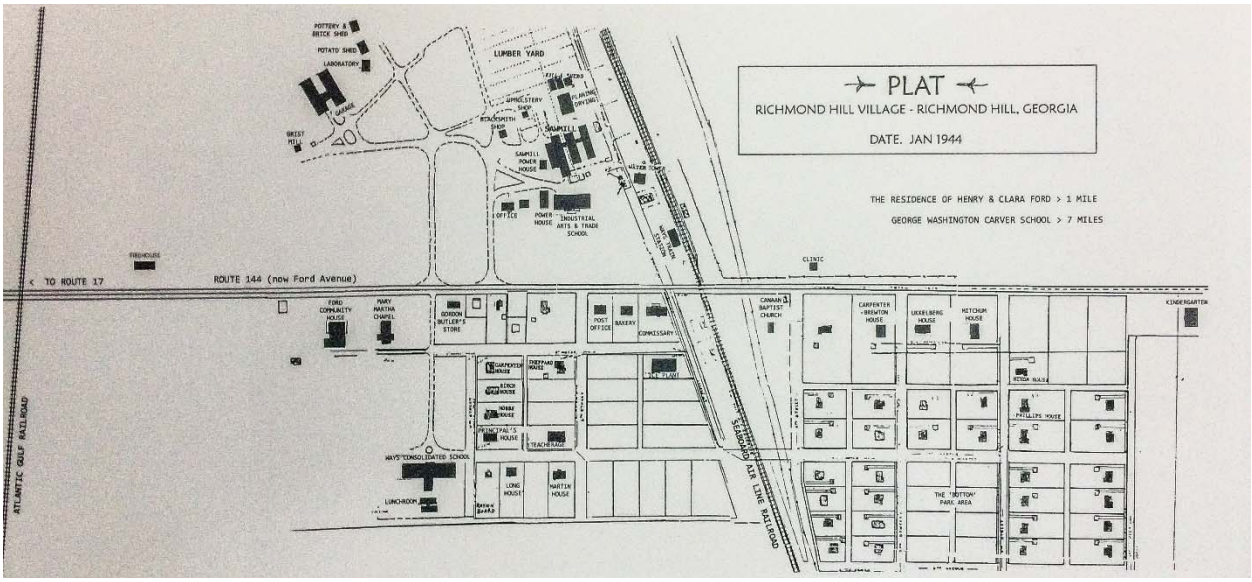


Figure 7: 1944 Plat of Richmond Hill Village showing development of The Bottom in relation to other Ford era structures (Ford Benson Research Center).

Over the next several years, 207 tenant houses were constructed for Ford plantation employees and their families in two neighborhoods. Richmond Hill Village, referred to early on as "The Bottom," was built first (Photo 3 and Figure 8). Just south of the central commercial core along Bryan Neck Road (later Ford Avenue), the houses were set in a grid around a central ball field (Figure 7). As Ford's community development interests grew, Blueberry Village was built northwest of the crossroads (Photo 4). Built to several designs, to be pre-assembled at the mill, they required only a few days to construct. The houses averaged $3,500 in cost and tenants were charged a modest ten to fifteen dollars of rent per month in 1941. Some houses were provided as part of an employee's salary while others were offered to the poorest of families for a token rent of one dollar. Leslie Long was one of the first employees to receive one of these houses, the **Leslie and Lucy Long House (GNAHRGIS #1427).**

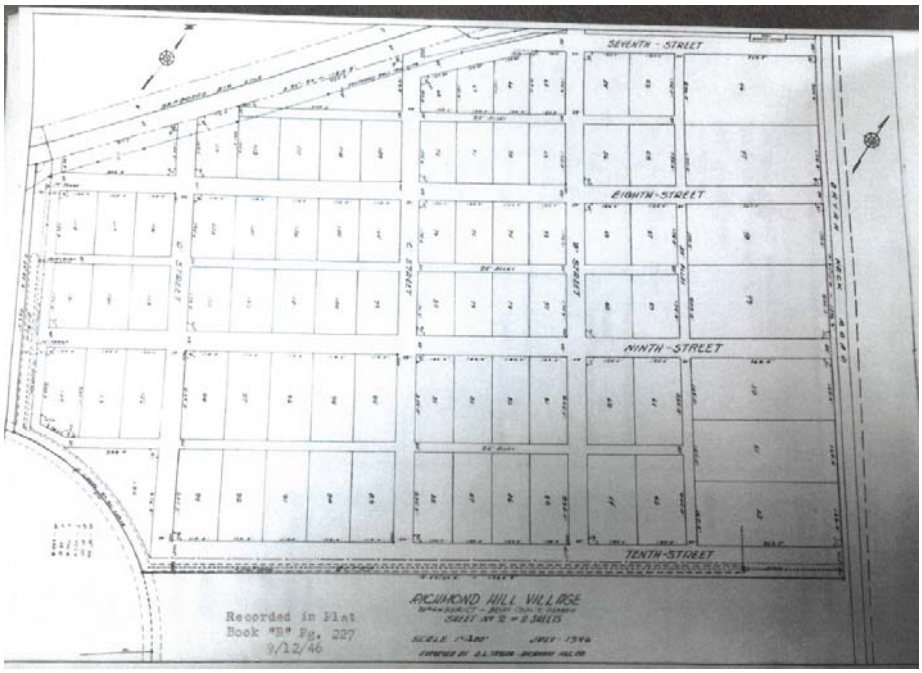


Photo 3 and Figure 8: Early Image of Richmond Hill Village showing newly constructed houses and the plat produced for the neighborhood's development dated July 1946. (Ford Benson Research Center).

Photo 4: Scene from alongside the Blueberry Village built by Henry Ford (Ford Benson Research Center).

In addition to the construction of houses, Ford concerned himself with the welfare of the people, working to tackle the area's most pressing problems. First, Ford had all of the moonshine stills destroyed and illegal hunting controlled. The town's location adjacent to several waterways meant that much of the land was often covered with standing water, and subsequently bred mosquitos. This led many to contract malaria. Ford sought to eradicate the disease, providing medication to everyone in the community free of charge. Further, he drained all of the ditches and ponds and oiled the marshes to keep the mosquitos at bay.[29] Further, drainage ditches became mandatory as front and side yard elements of the house lots in both Blueberry Village and The Bottom.

Prior to Ford's arrival, there were limited educational opportunities for whites and even fewer for African-American children. Ford was a firm believer in education and quickly made it a priority to establish schools for white and African-American children, to include a trades school for boys and home economics style education for girls. Furthermore, the establishment of the schools ensured that area children received one hot meal a day, something they may not have always had prior.

Ford took great interest in the children, providing for old-fashioned dance lessons as part of their extracurricular activities. He was even known to have attended dances that were held for the children in

[29] Oral history provided by Harriet Clark Hess, daughter of Ford-era clinic manager, Constance Clark. As recorded in "Ford Memories" Richmond Hill Historical Society, DVD.

the ballroom of the **Community House (GNAHRGIS #1303)** as well as hosting parties for the children on the lawn of his estate, **Richmond Hill Plantation (GNAHRGIS #262545)**.

As remembered by R.P. Thomson, office manager of the Richmond Hill Plantation from 1936 to 1944, Ford brought in well trained teachers to Ways Station, working with the Bryan County Commissioners to supplement their salary. As a result, he was allowed to dictate curriculum and activities for the students. One of Ford's specific requests were that the children attend services at the **Martha-Mary Chapel (GNAHRGIS #1304).**

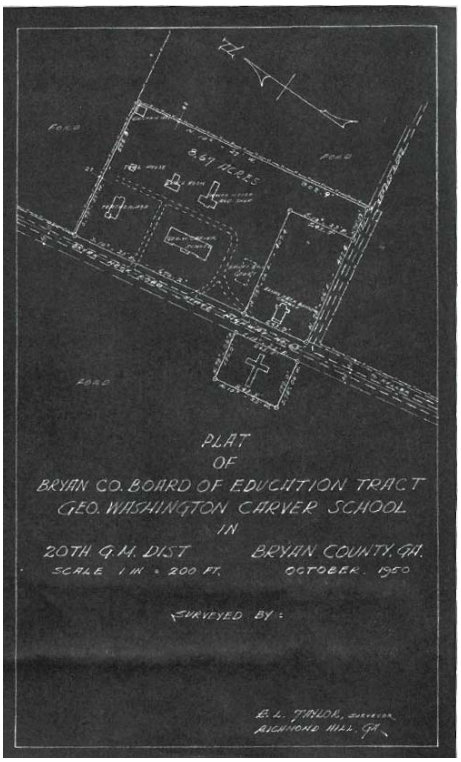


Figure 9: Plat of George Washington Carver School.

The Industrial Arts and Trade School was built in 1938 near the Ways Station crossroads. By 1939, four chemistry and physics classrooms had been built as part of an addition funded by Ford to the Ways Station Consolidated School. Today, only the **Ways Station School Gymnasium (GNAHRGIS #249993)** remains. Likewise, Ford financed the school's maintenance, buses and drivers, teacher salary supplements, as well as free lunches for teachers and students. Ford also paid for the senior class to make a trip to Dearborn, Michigan each year. In 1941, the **Ford Kindergarten (GNAHRGIS #1353)** was completed, providing children ages three to six with organized activity and one hot meal a day.[30]

With the construction of George Washington Carver School for African-American children in 1939, six one-room African-American schoolhouses throughout the county were consolidated. Although no longer standing, the Carver School stood six miles east of Ways Station on Bryan Neck Road (State Route 144) adjacent to the African-American Bryan Neck Baptist Church. Ford also built a teacherage, lunchroom, and industrial arts shop on the campus, as shown on a survey plat from 1950 (Figure 9). In the evenings, night classes were offered for African-American adults who desired to learn to read and write. This marked the beginning of the African-American school system in Bryan County, which operated until the end of segregation.[31]

Completed in 1936, the Ford's winter home, **Richmond Hill Plantation (GNAHRGIS #262545)**, cost $362,736 to build. Designed by architect Cletus Bergen, the house is indicative of the Greek Revival style. Edward J. Cutler is credited with the house's construction.[32] Planning the layout of their residence in every detail, Clara Ford requested a scaled model of the house be built prior to its erection. The Fords designed their home to capitalize on its natural setting, taking advantage of the site's openness and the

[30] Buddy Sullivan. Richmond Hill. Images of America. Page 101-102
[31] Buddy Sullivan. From Beautiful Zion to Red Bird Creek.
[32] Patricia Stallings, Brockington & Associates, Inc. Richmond Hill Plantation National Register Nomination Boundary Increase. 2002.

retention of live oaks. The Fords intentionally did not provide for vehicular traffic in front of their house, placing a circular drive 50 yards from the residence.[33]

Photo 5: Twin Brownwell boilers placed in the renovated Richmond Hill Plantation Rice Mill by Henry Ford, photograph from 1977 National Register nomination.

Ford employed many groundskeepers as part of his estate, providing employment to several area African-American men. To power the house, Ford had the then derelict **Richmond Plantation Rice Mill (GNAHRGIS #262558)** repurposed for use as an office and powerhouse (Photo 5). He installed two steam boilers with power supplied by an old rice mill engine that had been sent and reconditioned in Dearborn, Michigan. He connected the mill to his home by 1,100 feet of tunnel, within which steam power ran from the powerhouse to the residence.

[33] Buddy Sullivan. Richmond Hill. Images of America Page 26

Photo 6: 1935 photograph of Cottenham Plantation on the lower end of Bryan Neck south of Fort McAllister. The house served as a template for the design of the Community House (GNAHRGIS #1303).[34]

Henry and Clara Ford had a particular affinity for southern plantations. It was, in part, the aesthetic and culture of plantation life that drew their interest in constructing a winter home in Bryan County. It is no surprise then that Ford chose to construct one of the most central buildings in Ways Station to look like a plantation house. Built in 1936, the **Community House (GNAHRGIS #1303)** at 10512 Ford Avenue was designed to be similar in appearance to Cottenham Plantation, a large plantation house located at the lower end of Bryan Neck on Red Bird Creek south of Fort McAllister. Although no longer standing, Cottenham provided a template for the aesthetic of the exterior of the Community House (Photo 6).[35]

Adjacent, the **Martha-Mary Chapel (GNAHRGIS #1304)** has a particularly interesting story. Built in 1936 for a cost of $28,000, the building is named for both Henry and Clara Ford's mothers. A pre-fabricated building, it was shipped from Ford's plant in Wayside Inn, Massachusetts to Ways Station and is one of six similar chapels built by Ford. Four similar chapels exist in Michigan and one was built in Massachusetts.

[34] Buddy Sullivan. Richmond Hill. Images of America. Page 53
[35] Ibid. Page 53

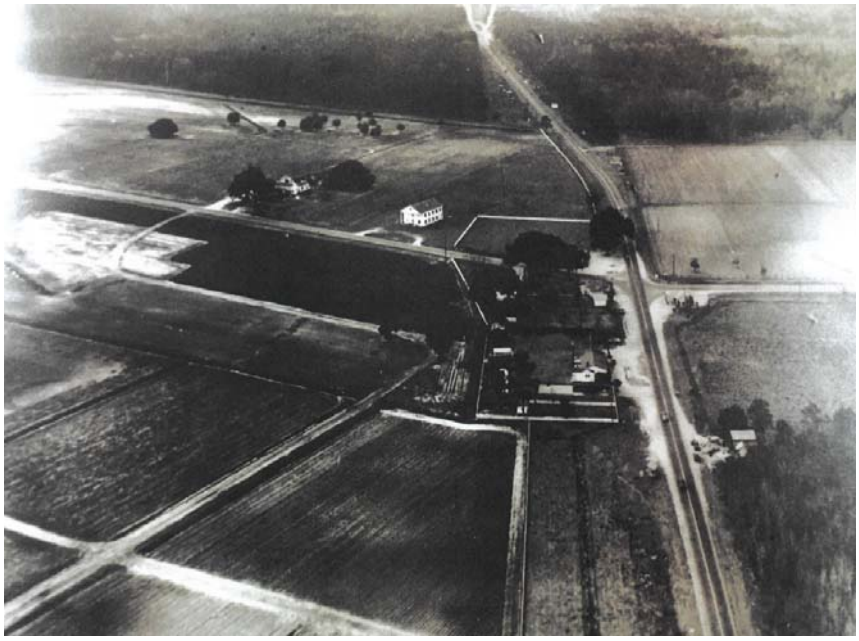


Photo 7: Aerial view looking south along Highway 17 at the crossroads with Bryan Neck Road (Ford Avenue).The **Bryan County Courthouse Annex (GNAHRGIS #1357) was one of the first community buildings built by Ford, shown here in white at the center of the image (Ford Benson Research Center).**

The Courthouse, known today as the **Bryan County Courthouse Annex (GNAHRGIS #1357)**, was built in 1938 near the southeast corner of the crossroads (Photo 7). Its name, however, is a misnomer as court was always held in the county seat of Pembroke. Ford deeded the building to the local government for use as a facility for town meetings and local elections. It was however used as City of Richmond Hill offices until 1998 when a new city hall was built, at which time it was deeded to Bryan County.

Other community buildings that remain from the Ford era in Richmond Hill include the **Richmond Hill Plantation Office (GNAHRGIS #1355)**, **Richmond Hill Teacherage (GNAHRGIS #1433)**, **Ford Kindergarten (GNAHRGIS #1353)**, **Richmond Hill Commissary (GNAHRGIS #262726**), **Fire Station Building (GNAHRGIS #263021),** and the **Ford Bakery (GNAHRGIS #262725).**

In 1941, Henry Ford initiated the change of the town's name from Ways Station to Richmond Hill. Reflective of Richmond Plantation, the name which was attributed to Dublin Plantation by Thomas Savage Clay and later to Ford Farms following the construction of the Greek Revival Ford estate, the designation was fitting. Further, by this time Ford had donned numerous other places with the name, including the primary residential area within the town, Richmond Hill Village (also known as The Bottom).

Photo 8: Image from survey completed by International Paper Company following their purchase of several properties owned by Henry Ford in 1950.

Following the death of Henry Ford in 1947 and Clara Ford three years later, the Ford properties in Richmond Hill and lower Bryan County were sold to International Paper Company for $5.5 million. The company would use the land for timber harvesting and sold all of the buildings. As part of their efforts, all of the land was surveyed (Photo 8).

In the absence of Ford, Richmond Hill's commercial interests shifted to capitalize on the city's location along Highway 17 and the growing popularity of car culture. With the construction of the "Dixie Highway," the way Americans traveled up and down the coast was transformed. The highway connected isolated peoples, opened new markets for the efficient transportation of goods, and established a tourism corridor and economy of businesses and amenities catering specifically to travelers moving north and south along its path.

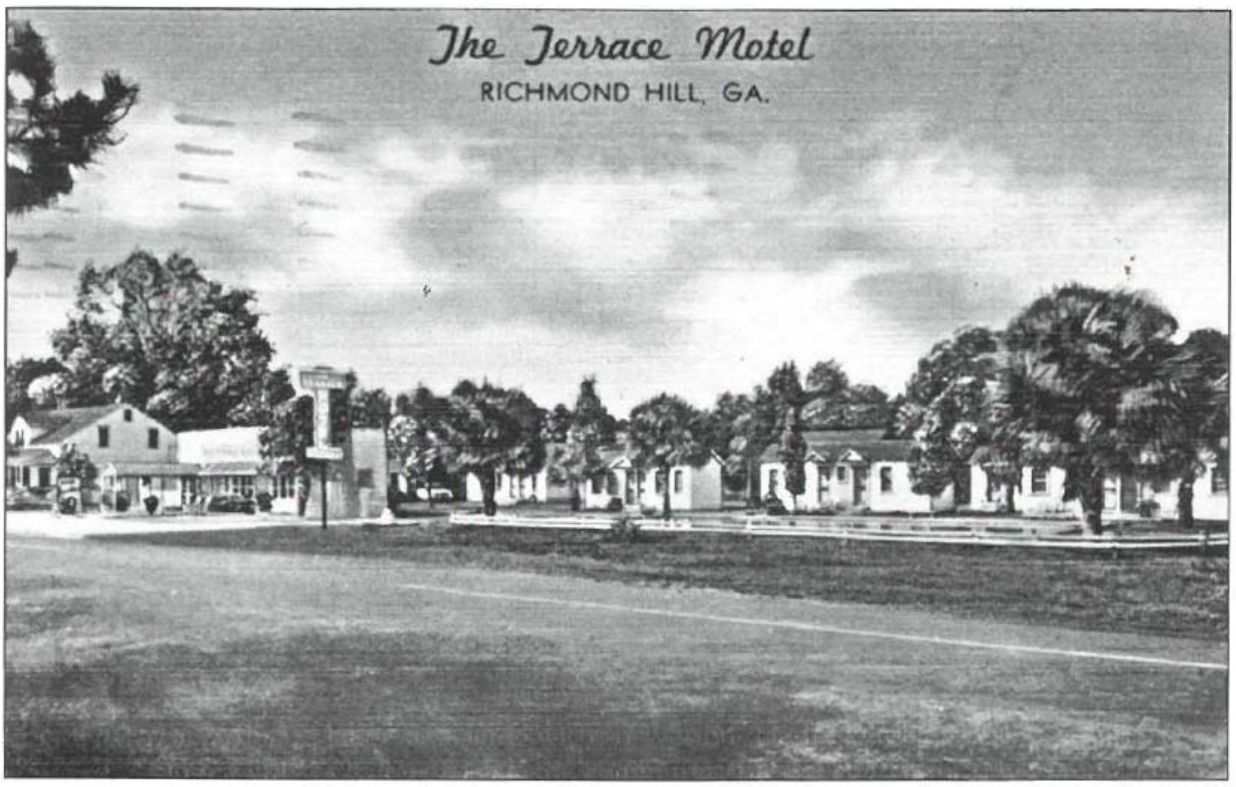


Figure 10: A postcard from the Terrace Motel, an early motor court on the "Dixie Highway," U.S. 17, in Richmond Hill.

The 1940s and 50s saw a revitalization of the economy with the tourist trade as numerous restaurants and motels were constructed along Highway 17, north and south of the crossroads at Richmond Hill. Vacationers on their way to Florida could stop in Richmond Hill to rest their eyes and grab a bite to eat. Tourist courts such as the **A-1 Motel (GNAHRGIS #262902)** prospered as travelers frequented these conveniently located facilities (Figure 10). Even though Richmond Hill remained a quiet town, traffic along the Dixie Highway was practically constant until the construction of Interstate 95 in the 1970s.[36]

Just outside of Richmond Hill, big things were happening adjacent to the small town. In June of 1940, Congress approves the development of an anti-aircraft training center near Hinesville, Georgia. In July of the same year the first 5,000 acres are purchased. In November of that year, the area was designated Camp (later Fort) Stewart. Although home to only modest training facilities prior, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 led to the army base's growth as the United States entered WWII, later becoming the largest base in the eastern United States, eventually covering 280,000 acres.[37]

As part of the development of the military base, U.S. government officials offered payment to those living in and around the areas converted to federal lands. The Department of Agriculture estimated that some 1,500 families were displaced.[38] This meant that the relocation of families, many of whom moved their

[36] Buddy Sullivan. Richmond Hill. Images of America. Page 121-123
[37] Pascoe, Craig S., and John S. Rieken. "Fort Stewart." New Georgia Encyclopedia. 06 June 2017. Web. 27 April 2019.
[38] Pascoe, Craig S., and John S. Rieken. "Fort Stewart." New Georgia Encyclopedia. 06 June 2017. Web. 27 April 2019.

dwellings to areas in and around the Georgia coast to include Darien and Richmond Hill. Within the survey area, there are a handful of buildings that were relocated from communities that predated Fort Stewart, such as the **Kenon Shuman House (GNAHRGIS #262573)** at 279 Forest Street. Subsequently, some of the earliest residential resources in Richmond Hill are located on the streets just east of Interstate 95 and south of Ford Avenue (State Route 144), on roads such as Camellia, Forest, and Clark.

With the growth of Fort Stewart, Richmond Hill, in addition to Hinesville, became one of the primary bedroom communities for soldiers wishing to live "off post." Richmond Hill has experienced unprecedented population and economic growth as a result of having this military neighbor. As Fort Stewart's population has grown, the number of rental housing opportunities within the city has also grown as a significant number of city residents are temporary, often stationed for only two to five years.

Photo 9: Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #262822) at 213 Holly Hill Road, a typical midcentury cottage in the Holly Hill subdivision.

In the 1950s, the Holly Hill subdivision was built on the southern end of Bryan Neck Road within the city limits. Home to eleven surveyed resources, this cluster of American Small Houses coincided with the city's growth and initial subdivision expansion eastward (Photo 9). The neighborhood has since expanded to include a mobile home community along Holly Hill Park Drive.

In 1962, Richmond Hill's growth led to the town's incorporation as the City of Richmond Hill.

Just as Richmond Hill has grown, so have the communities neighboring the city. In particular, Savannah has seen tremendous growth associated with the establishment of a second army base within its bounds, Hunter Army Airfield; the growth of international shipping from the city's large port; the location of Gulfstream Aerospace to Savannah in 1966; and an increasing interest in its tourist economy. Conveniently located a few exits down on Interstate 95, Richmond Hill has benefitted from this growth, becoming a bedroom community for many working in Savannah and Pooler.

As part of this growth, the City has worked to annex portions of Bryan County into the city limits in order to grow its tax base and provide City services to a wider audience. Currently, the Georgia Department of Transportation is working to widen and repave parts of State Route 144, and a new interchange is being added just south of town along Interstate 95.

SECTION 4: SURVEY METHODOLOGY & RESULTS

Methodology

All survey work completed as part of the Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey can be broken down into three cross-pollinating parts: archival research, field survey, and the recording of information. All work was guided by the *Georgia Historic Resources Survey Manual* provided by the Historic Preservation Division as well as the *National Register Bulletin 24: Guidelines for Local Survey: A Basis for Preservation Planning.*

At the start of the survey, maps and historical data were reviewed prior to fieldwork. This included the review of the Richmond Hill Plantation National Register nomination, the texts: *From Beautiful Zion to Red Bird Creek* by Buddy Sullivan, *Images of America: Richmond Hill* also by Buddy Sullivan, and *The Henry Ford Era at Richmond Hill, Georgia* by Dr. Franklin Leslie Long, Ph. D and Lucy Bunce Long, as well as survey data gathered in Richmond Hill in 2001 and 2009. It was determined at project outset that the entirety of the resources located within the city limits would be surveyed, including the rural areas recently annexed. An intensive field survey was performed in which resources constructed before 1978 were photographed and recorded using the Georgia Historic Resources Survey Form. Survey work was comprehensive, regardless of integrity, style, or significance. After data was collected in the field, it was then transferred to the Georgia Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources Geographic Information System's (GNAHRGIS) online database. All survey data can be viewed online at www.gnahrgis.org.

Parcels containing resources 40 years of age or older were targeted for survey. Additionally, any parcels containing resources previously surveyed in 2001 and 2009 were targeted. Other parameters that were used to guide survey work included the exclusion of mobile homes and modern infill buildings.

The research pertaining to the social history of the historic communities within the survey bounds, as well as new information collected regarding individual sites, proved to be the most informative. Gathered through face-to-face meetings with residents, several people took the time to share their knowledge of their properties and related histories. When possible, information was verified with primary and secondary textual sources.

Lominack Kolman Smith performed an intensive field survey from December 2018 to March 2019. Following, all data was entered in the office into GNAHRGIS. The Bryan County Board of Tax Assessors was consulted as part of this process for the determination of property lines, building sketches, estimated year built data, and property identification numbers (PIN). Lastly, survey data from 2001 and 2009 was cross referenced whenever possible to identify changes that occurred since this time and character defining features that may have been altered, and to verify and update any historical information previously recorded. Unless visibility was limited, a minimum of two high-quality digital photographs were made of each resource surveyed. Additionally, all outbuildings were surveyed when visible from the right of way and associated with a primary resource over 40 years of age.

While not intended, it is possible that a historic resource may have been inadvertently omitted from this survey, as it may have been hidden from view or access. If a homeowner requested to not be included in the survey, we honored their wishes. The vast majority of historic resources within the survey bounds have been documented.

Survey Results

A total number of 345 resources were surveyed as part of this historic resources survey. The breakdown of resources by type includes 333 buildings, 1 structure, 1 object, 7 sites, and 3 landscape features (Table 1). All resources over 40 years of age, regardless of integrity or condition, were surveyed as part of this phase, excluding mobile homes and modern infill.

A total of 188 resources were assigned a new Georgia Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources Geographic Information System (GNAHRGIS) number. Additionally, a total of 157 resources that were previously surveyed as part of the 2000 and 2009 historic resources survey were updated in GNAHRGIS. Only the GNAHRGIS fields that represented features of these resources that were altered or changed since 2001 and 2009 were updated. Resources less than 40 years old were not entered into GNAHRGIS, with the exception of the Historical Markers put into place by the Coastal Bryan Heritage Trail**.** Resources that had been demolished since the 2001 and 2009 survey received updates to their basic resource information in GNAHRGIS only.

A survey index listing each resource's GNAHRGIS number, resource type, name, address, parcel number, current use, date of construction, building type, and architectural style, as applicable, can be found in the appendices. These resources can be broken down by the historic resource types identified by the National Park Service (Table 1). The resources that were surveyed in 2001 and 2009 but were demolished and missing from the landscape at the time of survey are included in the totals below.

Table 1: Number of Resources Surveyed by Type

Resource Type	Number of Resources
Building	333
Structure	1
Object	1
Site	7
Landscape Feature	3

Construction Dates

By tallying resource construction dates by decade, it is possible to see the periods of heightened development as well as which historical periods are best represented on the landscape today. There are few historic resources that remain from before the Ford era however, since the majority of the buildings from this time period were lost due to new development or neglect. The majority of historic resources that remain within the city limits were constructed between 1930 and 1949. This period coincides with Henry Ford's development of Richmond Hill. A total of 162 resources, or 50.7% of resources surveyed, date from this period.

The 25 resources surveyed in the 2001 or 2009 survey that have since been demolished were not included in the counts of any Table except Table 1. If the above mentioned 25 resources were to be included, the total resource count would be 345.

Table 2: Number of Resources by Construction Date by Decade

Decade	Number of Resources
Unknown	2
1750-1800	2
1850-1859	2
1860-1869	1
1870-1879	3
1890-1899	2
1900-1909	1
1910-1919	6
1920-1929	7
1930-1939	54
1940-1949	108
1950-1959	18
1960-1969	18
1970-1978	96

Original and Current Use

Over half of the resources surveyed qualify as single-family residences. A total of 261 resources, or 81.6% of the resources surveyed, could be attributed to this category.

The survey area included a high number of resources originally associated with agricultural use, as this was originally a large part of the island's economy and landscape. The rest of the resources identified are categorized based on their original commercial, educational, religious, industrial, or transportation use.

Resources surveyed in the 2001 and 2009 survey that have since been demolished were not included in the counts in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3: Breakdown of Resources by Original Use

Original Use	Number of Resources
Agriculture/subsistence – Processing	3
Commerce and Trade	2
Commerce and Trade > Food services	4
Commerce and Trade > General store	1
Commerce and Trade - Specialty Store	5
Domestic – Educational facility/campus	1
Domestic – Multi-Family	2
Domestic - Single Dwelling	262
Domestic – Transient Housing > Motel	2
Education – School	3
Funerary – Burial	5
Governmental	4
Health Care	1
Landscape	4
Military and Defense – Fortification	1
Monument	1
Recreation, Culture, Entertainment	4
Religion – Religious Facility	7
Social and Civic – Civic/Humanitarian	1
Social and Civic – Clubhouse	1
Transportation – Rail Related	1
Transportation – Road Related	4
Transportation – Water Related	1
Unknown	1

Table 4: Breakdown of Resources by Current Use

Current Use	Number of Resources
Agriculture/subsistence – Animal Facility	1
Commerce and Trade	3
Commerce and Trade – Food Services	3
Commerce and Trade – Office	4
Commerce and Trade – Specialty Store	5
Domestic - Single Dwelling	237
Domestic – Multi-Family	2
Funerary – Burial	4
Funerary – Mortuarial	1
Governmental	4
Landscape	3
Monument	1
Recreation, Entertainment, Culture	8
Religion – Religious Facility	7
Social and Civic	5
Transportation – Road Related	2
Transportation – Water Related	1
Vacant	24
Work in Progress	5

SECTION 5: ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Architectural Styles

The architecture of the area surveyed spans a variety of construction periods and styles, representative of national and local trends, available materials, demographics, location, and use (Table 5). Of buildings surveyed, 272 were found to have no academic architectural style, representative of the area's rural surroundings and demographics. A total of 47 buildings surveyed were assigned a specific academic style and are highlighted in this report.

Resources surveyed in the 2001 and 2009 survey that have since been demolished were not included in the counts in Table 5.

Table 5: Breakdown of Resources by Architectural Style

Architectural Style	Number of Resources
Colonial Revival	19
Craftsman	4
Greek Revival	3
Modern Movement – Other	4
Neoclassical Revival	2
No academic style	272
Plain Style (Ranch and Split Level)	15
Unknown	1

Vernacular buildings, which often have 'no academic style,' dominate the landscape. The majority of historic resources that remain in Richmond Hill do not conform to a particular architectural style but rather are representative of the lifeways, culture, and available materials associated with development of Richmond Hill during the Henry Ford era.

General Outline of Styles

The outline that follows provides a general overview of the academic architectural styles that can be found within the survey area. An architectural and historical context is provided that describes the development of these styles based on trends evidenced at the local, regional, and national level.

COLONIAL REVIVAL (1880-1955)

The Colonial Revival style was the dominant style of choice for residential buildings throughout the first half of the twentieth century. This constituted a rebirth of interest in the early English and Dutch houses of the Atlantic coastline, while elements of the earlier Georgian and Adam styles form the backbone of this Revival.

The Colonial Revival is characterized by an accentuated front door, typically with a decorative crown or pediment, supported by pilasters, or extended forward and supported by slender columns to form an entry porch. Doors commonly have overhead fanlights or sidelights, the façade is typically symmetrically balanced, and the windows are double-hung sash with multi-pane glazing in one or both sashes.[39]

Photo 10: The Hobbs House (GNAHRGIS #1429), 63 Maple Street, built circa 1934.

The **Hobbs House** is a good example of the Colonial Revival style, as articulated on what was originally a single dwelling for Mrs. Vera Hobbs, the depot agent for the Seaboard Air Line which ran through Richmond Hill. Architectural elements indicative of the style include paired double-hung three-over-one wood windows, a central entrance with broken pediment, entrance sidelights, engaged corner columns, gable roof variation and gable end returns, and a steep roof pitch.

[39] McAlester & McAlester, 320-341.

CRAFTSMAN (1905-1930)

The Craftsman style was inspired by the work of two brothers, Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene. Together, they held a practice in Pasadena, California from 1893 to 1914. Popularized in architecture magazines such as *Good Housekeeping* and *Ladies' Home Journal*, the style was familiarized. As a result, numerous pattern books picked up the style, offering plans for Craftsman bungalows. Many of these used pre-cut lumber for assembly with local labor. Craftsman houses quickly became the most popular and fashionable small house in the country. One-story examples are often bungalows, which are the most common building type associated with the style.

The Craftsman style is characterized by low-pitched, gabled roofs with wide, unenclosed eave overhangs, roof rafters that are exposed, decorative false beams or braces, and porches supported by tapered square columns that commonly extend to ground level.[40]

Photo 11: Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1437), 218 Camellia Street, built circa 1930.

This **Single Dwelling** is a good example of a vernacular use of the Craftsman style. Elements indicative of the style include the house's frame construction, square massing, full-width porch supported by brick piers and battered posts, paired double-hung wood windows, front gable roof, and exterior end chimney.

[40] McAlester & McAlester, 452-463.

GREEK REVIVAL (1825-1860)

The Greek Revival style was incorporated into American architecture to convey democracy and freedom, rejecting ties to England in the decades following the War of 1812. Pattern books popularized domestic examples and the style became the dominant style of American residential architecture between 1830 and 1850.

The Greek Revival style is characterized by gabled or hipped roofs at a low pitch, and a cornice emphasized with a wide band of trim similar to a classical entablature. Most have porches supported by prominent square or round columns and a front door with narrow sidelights and transom. Other fenestration typically includes six-over-six windows with simple, but substantial surrounds.[41]

Photo 12: Richmond Hill Plantation (GNAHRGIS #262545) at Ford Plantation, built in 1936 with renovations in 1981 and 1999.

The **Richmond Hill Plantation** was built as a winter house by Henry and Clara Ford with bricks salvaged from the Hermitage Plantation in Savannah, where Savannah grey bricks were made. Influenced by the Greek Revival design of the Hermitage, the house's overall symmetry, full height entry porches supported by full height Doric columns, main entrance flanked by sidelights and a fanlight, and detailed cornice entablature are indicative of the style. In 1981, Saudi Arabian entrepreneur Ghaith Pharoan renovated the house for use as his personal residence, constructing a detached garage and installing the paved drive, gardens, and pool around the house.

[41] McAlester & McAlester, 178-195.

Photo 13: Cherry Hill Plantation House (GNAHRGIS #262513), 170 Cherry Laurel Way, built in 1874, moved and renovated circa 1985.

The **Cherry Hill Plantation House** is the second of two houses built for Cherry Hill Plantation, after the first was burned during the Civil War. Henry Ford acquired Cherry Hill in 1925. Ford and his wife Clara stayed here until their Richmond Hill estate was complete. In the 1980s, Ghaith Pharaon moved the house to its current location, altering its appearance. The alterations included the addition of the front and rear Greek Revival full façade porches. Prior, the house was a simple dwelling that could be attributed to the Federal style. Today, the house's full-length Doric columns, symmetrical entrances with sidelight windows, and cornice with entablature and parapet are reflective of the Greek Revival style.

NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL (1895-1950)

Neoclassical Revival was a dominant style for domestic buildings throughout the country during the first half of the twentieth century. The revival of interest dates from the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The expositions planners mandated a classical theme and many of the best-known architects of the time designed dramatic buildings. The exposition was widely photographed and reported thus Neoclassical models became the latest fashion throughout the country.

Georgian, Adam, Early Classical Revival and Greek Revival traditions, which originally spanned a century and half of the nation's history, became fused into the now eclectic Neoclassical Revival style. The Neoclassical Revival style typically features a full height porch with a roof supported by classical columns, a symmetrical façade with balanced windows, and a center door.

Photo 14: Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #220449), 4842 Highway 17, built circa 1904.

This **Single Dwelling** is typical of the Neoclassical Revival style. Indicative of the style, the house's full height, front gabled entry porch with slender and simple columns is its most character defining feature. Further influence is evident in the house's rigid symmetry, moderately pitched roof, and numerous matching outbuildings.

PLAIN-STYLE (1935-1975)

Originating in California in the mid-1930s, the Plain-style gained wider popularity in the 1940s. By the 1950s and 60s, the style had become the dominant choice for residential architecture in the form of rambling ranch houses on large lots made possible by the popularity of the automobile, as it replaced streetcars and buses as the dominant form of transportation following World War II.

The Plain-style is characterized by asymmetrical designs with low-pitched roofs, a moderate or wide eave overhang, a red brick cladded exterior, picture windows, and occasional decorative iron or wooden porch supports. Large private outdoor living areas at the rear of houses were added in direct contrast to the large front and side porches of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century styles.[42]

Photo 15: Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #220430), 235 Ponderosa Road, built 1967.

This **Single Dwelling** is a common example of the plain-style found in Richmond Hill. This ranch house has an asymmetrical one-story facade with low-pitched hip roof and recessed porch, indicative of the plain style. The style is most often clad in brick veneer, as seen here. The central picture window in aluminum with flanking double hung sash sidelights in the living area is likewise a common element.

[42] McAlester& McAlester, 479.

Building Types

A total of 310 resources surveyed were identified as conforming to one of the building types recognized by the Historic Preservation Division as identified in the Georgia's Living Places. Resources surveyed in the 2001 and 2009 surveys that have since been demolished were not included in the counts in Table 6.

Table 6: Breakdown of Resources by Building Type Only

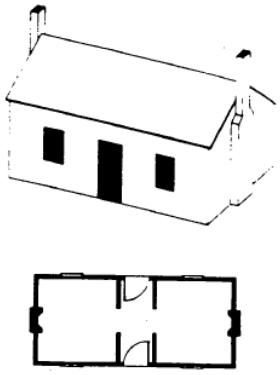
Building Type	Number of Examples
Single-Family House Types	
American Small House	87
Bungalow	30
Central Hall Cottage	5
Extended Hall Parlor	1
Gabled Wing Cottage	1
Georgian Cottage	2
Georgian House	3
Hall-parlor	3
Manufactured House (installed)	6
Pyramid Cottage	1
Queen Anne Cottage	1
Ranch	93
Saddlebag	2
Side Gabled Cottage	1
Single Pen	1
Split Level	2
Agricultural Buildings	
Outbuildings	3
Churches	
Central Tower	3
Front Gable	4
Commercial Buildings (Retail & office)	
Community Store	1
Single Retail	3
Educational	1
Government Buildings	
County Courthouse	1
Post Office	2
Industrial	1
Lodge Hall	1
Not Applicable	37
Places of Accommodation	
Motel	2
Road Related	
Gas/service station	4
Parking	1
Restaurant	2
Unknown Type	5

Property Types Defined

Building types prominent within the survey area are defined below with images of specific resources indicative of that type provided for further illustration. Organized by category, house types are addressed first followed by agricultural, religious, commercial, governmental, places of accommodation and road related uses.

When possible, illustrations of building types and associated floor plans from Georgia Department of Natural Resource's text *Georgia's Living Places* are included to provide greater understanding.

CENTRAL HALLWAY COTTAGE



A favorite in Georgia throughout the nineteenth century, the central hallway cottage consists of a center hall or passageway between two rooms. It is differentiated by other types by being only one room deep. Typically, central hallway cottages have gabled roofs and exterior end chimneys on both ends. These houses are found throughout Georgia on farmsteads and on principal residential streets in Georgia's towns and cities. Most examples were built between 1830 and 1930, with clusters occurring between 1840 to 1860 and 1870 to 1890.

Photo 16: Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1402), 346 Mimosa Street, The Bottom neighborhood, built ca 1910.

This **Single Dwelling** is located at the end of Mimosa Street adjacent to the railroad tracks in The Bottom neighborhood. Constructed prior to the establishment of The Bottom, the house either predated the founding of the neighborhood or was moved to this location. While it has been modified with replacement windows and cladding, it is still possible to read its original form. Defining characteristics include its side gable massing, shed roof porch, and symmetrical front façade.

MANUFACTURED HOME (INSTALLED)

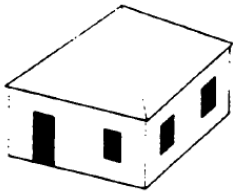
The story of manufactured housing has its roots in the demand for economical housing that is quick and easy to construct. While the greatest association with manufactured housing is the creation of mobile homes, the installation of houses manufactured off-site, to be assembled on-site by the homeowner or with local labor, similar to a “kit house,” received much popularity in the decades following World War II. After the war, veterans came home to find affordable housing in short supply. These manufactured homes were often purchased and then installed and/or finished by the purchaser. Simple frame houses, these dwellings are often 2,000 square feet or less, with double-hung or jalousie aluminum windows accompanying a picture window, a recessed porch, and low roofs covered in asphalt shingles with moderate overhangs.

Photo 17: Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #262836), 1185 Harris Trail Road, built circa 1975.

Four dwellings were attributed to be of the manufactured housing type and 40 years of age or older in Richmond Hill. The **Single Dwelling** pictured above, shows a good example of a manufactured house form from the 1970s. L-shaped in plan, the house has a recessed entrance and is clad in aluminum siding. Other elements common to the manufactured house include double hung sash aluminum windows and low-pitched roofs with extended eaves.

PYRAMID COTTAGE

Consisting of a square main mass, the Pyramid Cottage housing type is one of the simplest housing forms in early twentieth century Georgia. With four principal rooms and no hallway, the plan is very utilitarian. The most memorable feature is its steeply-pitched pyramidal roof. Largely built between 1910 and 1930, this house type was most popular in the regions between the Fall Line and the Coast as well as in rural areas and on the fringes of towns and urban areas.



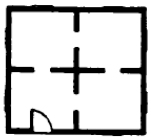


Photo 18: Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1438), 160 Camellia Street, built circa 1930.

This **Single Dwelling** is one of two remaining pyramidal cottages located in Richmond Hill. Pictured above, elements of the type include its square massing, frame construction, full width recessed porch, low roof pitch, and metal roof cladding. The house appeared to be used only for storage at the time of survey.

SADDLEBAG

One of the most distinctive and easily recognizable house types in Georgia, the saddlebag house derives its name from a central chimney flanked by two rooms, which are on either side of the chimney. The rooms are usually square, and the roof is usually gabled. There are two subtypes, one with an exterior door into each room and one with a single, central door into a vestibule beside the chimney. In the last few decades of the century, saddlebags were popular for modest housing in outlying fringes of Georgia's towns and cities. Far more examples survive today from the great period of mill village construction, from about 1910 to 1930.

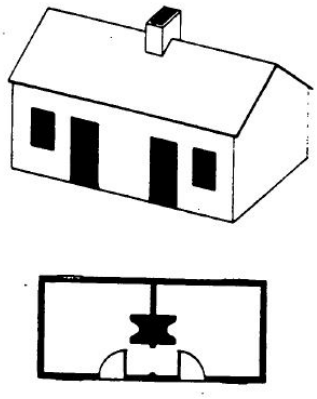


Photo 19: Duplex Dwelling, GNAHRGIS #1403, 374 Mimosa Street, built circa 1910.

Rare surviving examples, there are two saddlebag houses that remain in Richmond Hill. This dwelling is located at the end of Mimosa Street adjacent to the railroad tracks in The Bottom neighborhood, as it likely predated the construction of the neighborhood or was moved to this location. The house has two exterior doors, a central chimney, and a side gabled roof. Although once more prevalent, this house type is becoming less common on the Georgia landscape.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

Photo 20: Ford Ice House (GNAHRGIS #262537), located in Ford Plantation, built circa 1930.

The **Ford Ice House** was built by Henry Ford for his iceberg lettuce operations. This building originally stood on the site adjacent to the **Site of Ford Lettuce Packing Shed (GNAHRGIS #262415)** and was relocated to its current site in 1999, at which time it was restored. The large opening seen on the second floor of the side elevation was used to place large blocks of ice on top of crates of lettuce for their final packing and shipment. Adjacent is a period chicken coop that was likewise moved to the site.

NOTEWORTHY NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING TYPES

Photos 21 and 22: Outgoing Mail Building (GNAHRGIS #1422) on Cherry Street facing Seaboard Airline Railroad.

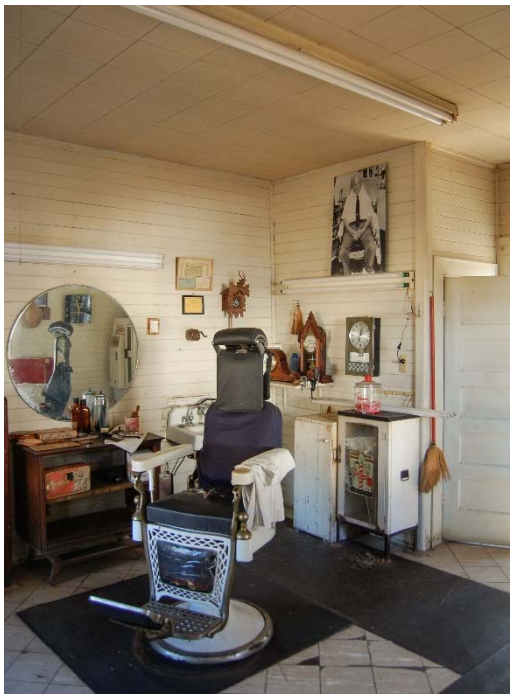
Built circa 1940, the **Outgoing Mail Building** is a relic of the railroad age, when mail was delivered by train in a "mail car." Located on a couple of feet west of the Seaboard Airline Railroad tracks, this building processed incoming and outgoing mail. Originally, a metal arm swung out and caught the mail bag and pulled it into the mail car. Today, two buildings associated with the railroad stand in the woods at this location.

Photos 23 and 24: Ford Bakery (GNAHRGIS #262725), 10750 Ford Avenue, built 1941.

The **Ford Bakery** was built to provide fresh baked goods for the residents of Ways Station. The Bakery operated in tandem with the adjacent Commissary and Post Office buildings as part of the town's commercial core. Indicative of buildings built by Henry Ford, the bakery is a frame one-story structure, clad in clapboard, with an asphalt shingle roof. Renovated based on historic photographs in 2019, the building also features ganged 16-light storefront windows in wood, a central entrance, and copper cupola vent. The interior features an original red quarry tile floor.

Photos 25 and 26: Community House (GNAHRGIS #1303), 10512 Ford Avenue, built circa 1936.

The **Community House** is one of the most prominent buildings constructed by Henry Ford. Designed to resemble Cottenham, a Sea Island cotton plantation house formerly in Bryan County, the Community House was built to enhance the educational, social, and cultural development of the people of Ways Station. Indicative of a plantation house, the Community House features a large two-story mass, a central entrance with sidelights, a wrap-around porch, and matching interior end chimneys in brick. Extending off the rear of the house, is a two-story cross gable extension that housed additional educational space.



Photos 27 and 28: Bailey Carpenter's Barber Shop (GNAHRGIS #262754), moved to 11460 Ford Avenue, built circa 1938.

Built by Bailey Carpenter for use as a barbershop, this building originally stood at the corner of US Highway 17 and Ford Avenue, at what was the crossroads of Ways Station. Henry Ford was known to frequent the shop and paid for the building's move closer to the Ways Station School to allow Mr. Carpenter to pay less rent. Later, it was moved to the rear of the **Bailey Carpenter House (GNAHRGIS #1381)** and most recently to the site of the Richmond Hill Historical Society Museum at the **Ford Kindergarten (GNAHRGIS #1353).** The building is a simple two-bay front gable frame structure that is clad in clapboard with exposed rafter tail ends in the eaves.

EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS

Photos 29 and 30: Old Post Office (GNAHRGIS #1420), moved to 114 Parkwood Avenue, built circa 1900.

The **Old Post Office** building was previously a one room school house located west of the **Ford Bakery (GNAHRGIS #262725)** and the **Richmond Hill Commissary (GNAHRGIS #262726)** buildings on Ford Avenue. It was later remodeled to be a post office. Most recently, the building was moved to the Bottom neighborhood and converted into a residence in the 1980s. The building has a cross gable form and features eight-over-eight double-hung sash wood windows.

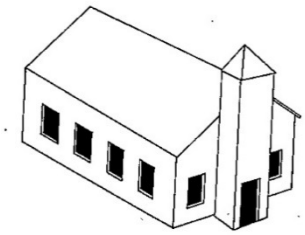
Photos 31-33: Ford Kindergarten (GNAHRGIS #1353), 11460 Ford Avenue, built circa 1940.

The **Ford Kindergarten** was constructed as a model kindergarten for children from three to six years of age. The 3,500 square foot building was designed to resemble a bungalow with two large rooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom. A frame structure clad in clapboard with a central entrance, the building features a three-bay porch centered on the front façade and six-over-six double-hung sash windows in wood. The interior features original hardwood floors and stained wood wall panels.

After the International Paper Company purchased the Ford properties of Richmond Hill in 1950, the kindergarten was turned into offices. Today, the building is used by the Richmond Hill Historical Society as a Museum.

RELIGIOUS RESOURCES

CENTRAL TOWER CHURCH



Characterized by a projecting entrance tower with a pyramidal roof in the front center, this common church type could either be plain or highly ornamental in architectural details. The central tower church type was built from the 1850s through the 1930s, and typically built in rural areas or small to medium sized towns.

Photos 34 and 35: Martha Mary Chapel (GNAHRGIS #1304), 10550 Ford Avenue, built 1937.

As a central tower church, the **Martha Mary Chapel** is a good example of its type and retains good integrity. Built by Henry and Clara Ford, and named after their mothers, the notable features include its frame construction, clapboard siding, central recessed and pedimented entrance, arched multi pane windows, highly detailed cornice with modillions and dentils, and ornate central tower.

Notable Outbuildings

A handful of outbuildings were recorded as part of the Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey. Every outbuilding associated with a resource over 40 years of age was surveyed and recorded within that resource's GNAHRGIS survey entry. Many of the outbuildings observed were constructed for general storage or transportation storage use, such as the single bay free standing garages in The Bottom. The garages are typically located behind the principal dwelling, where a driveway running adjacent to the house terminates. Many of these resources are intact, although some have been modified, changed materiality, or lost the chimney. The common form is a frame structure, front facing gable with a lower projecting front gable for the garage door, a single window on the front façade and two windows on the side, a chimney at the central ridgeline or within roof surface, and a form of wood siding. The garages were also used as a summer kitchen or for canning purposes, hence the need for a chimney.

Photo 36: Garage associated with the Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1378) at 254 Magnolia Street, built circa 1939.

This is an excellent example of an original garage. The exterior material is clapboard, the door and windows are original, and the exposed tails are present. The brick chimney is missing.

Photo 37: Garage associated with the Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1371) at 386 Magnolia Street, built circa 1939.

This is an example of a garage turned into a guest house. The garage door was turned into a window and the original window opening was turned into an entry door. The chimney has been removed.

Photo 38: Garage associated with the Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1413) at 89 Mimosa Street, built circa 1944.

This is an example of a garage with a typical shed roof overhang addition. The chimney has been removed and the materials have changed.

Structural Characteristics and Building Materials

An analysis of building material use as part of the survey shows material availability as well as building and construction trends in the City of Richmond Hill and the region over time.

The vast majority of buildings within the survey area are frame structures clad in a synthetic material, such as asbestos siding, vinyl siding, fiberboard, or permastone. The second most common material is wood, such as clapboard, board and batten, flush board siding, or vertical wood board. The majority of structures with changed original exterior material, were changed to vinyl siding or brick.

Resources surveyed in the 2001 survey that have since been demolished were not included in the counts in Table 7.

Table 7: Breakdown of Resources by Exterior Materials

Exterior Materials	Number of Examples
Brick	98
Concrete Masonry Units (CMU)	13
Metal (Aluminum Siding)	6
Multiple Materials	4
Stone	1
Stucco	2
Synthetics	114
Wood	70

Condition

The majority of the resources surveyed are in good condition. Good condition can be defined as an appearance of good structural stability and no visible signs of rot or significant deterioration. Resources that have suffered significant deterioration typically date to earlier periods of development represented on the landscape. The majority of the buildings that display the most deterioration are residential. This constitutes a visible lack of structural stability, collapsed framing, significant vegetative growth, and visible rot. The area with the greatest concentration of deterioration is along the corridor of Harris Trail Road and several roads that connect to it such as Port Royal Road and Brisbon Road.

SECTION 6: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESERVATION

Many opportunities for preservation exist within Richmond Hill.

Richmond Hill's story is particularly unique, and one that is associated with persons of national significance. While only publicly recognized in the last thirty years, it is believed that the scholarship surrounding Henry Ford's interests in Richmond Hill has just begun. That being said, a wealth of information has been discovered that not only highlights his interest in agricultural experiments, but likewise a social experiment – that of the town of Richmond Hill. It is here that the values embodied by Ford were built of bricks and mortar. Pairing his economic interests with the employment and betterment of the lives of the people of Ways Station, Ford transformed what was a sleepy, crossroads town into a city of opportunity.

What makes this story even more compelling is the sheer number of resources that remain on the landscape that can be attributed to Henry Ford and his directives. As logged by this survey, an estimated 120 resources could be categorized in this way.

With the recent establishment of the city's Historic Preservation Commission, a newly empowered advisory body is at the helm for the implementation of preservation planning recommendations. When examining the Ford-era resources within Richmond Hill's bounds from an aerial perspective, five specific clusters of resources are revealed, four of which have potential eligibility for listing as districts on the National Register of Historic Places. The two neighborhoods built by Ford during the 1930s and 40s, Richmond Hill Village (The Bottom) and Blueberry Village, remain largely intact. While some modern infill is present, it has kept roughly to the same scale and mass as its historic neighbors. Alterations to houses in both neighborhoods have included new exterior cladding, replacement windows, extended eaves, and some small additions. Evident still are repeated house forms, as the massing of the houses has largely remained the same as time has passed. Additionally, several landscape elements including the central ballfield within The Bottom and brick culverts found throughout both neighborhoods are distinctive, defining elements.

A third residential area, adjacent to the Richmond Hill Pre-Kindergarten and the **Richmond Hill School Gymnasium (GNAHRGIS #249993)**, includes a cluster of dwellings built for specific use by teachers and employees of the school, in addition to one house built by Ford for a handicapped student. While this area features larger houses with more discernable architectural features, the neighborhood, clustered around Maple, Linwood, and Ivey Streets, does not have a name. The association of the houses as well as their clustering together, make this area another strong candidate for historic district listing.

Two additional areas, Ford Plantation and Ford Avenue, contain clusters of Ford-era historic resources. While there are several historic resources that remain within the bounds of the planned development of Ford Plantation, the majority of these resources have been recognized as part of a boundary increase of the Richmond Hill Plantation National Register nomination. Those which remain unrecognized include the cemeteries associated with the Silk Hope, Cherry Hill, and Richmond Plantations and the grounds **Caretaker House (GNAHRGIS #262414).**

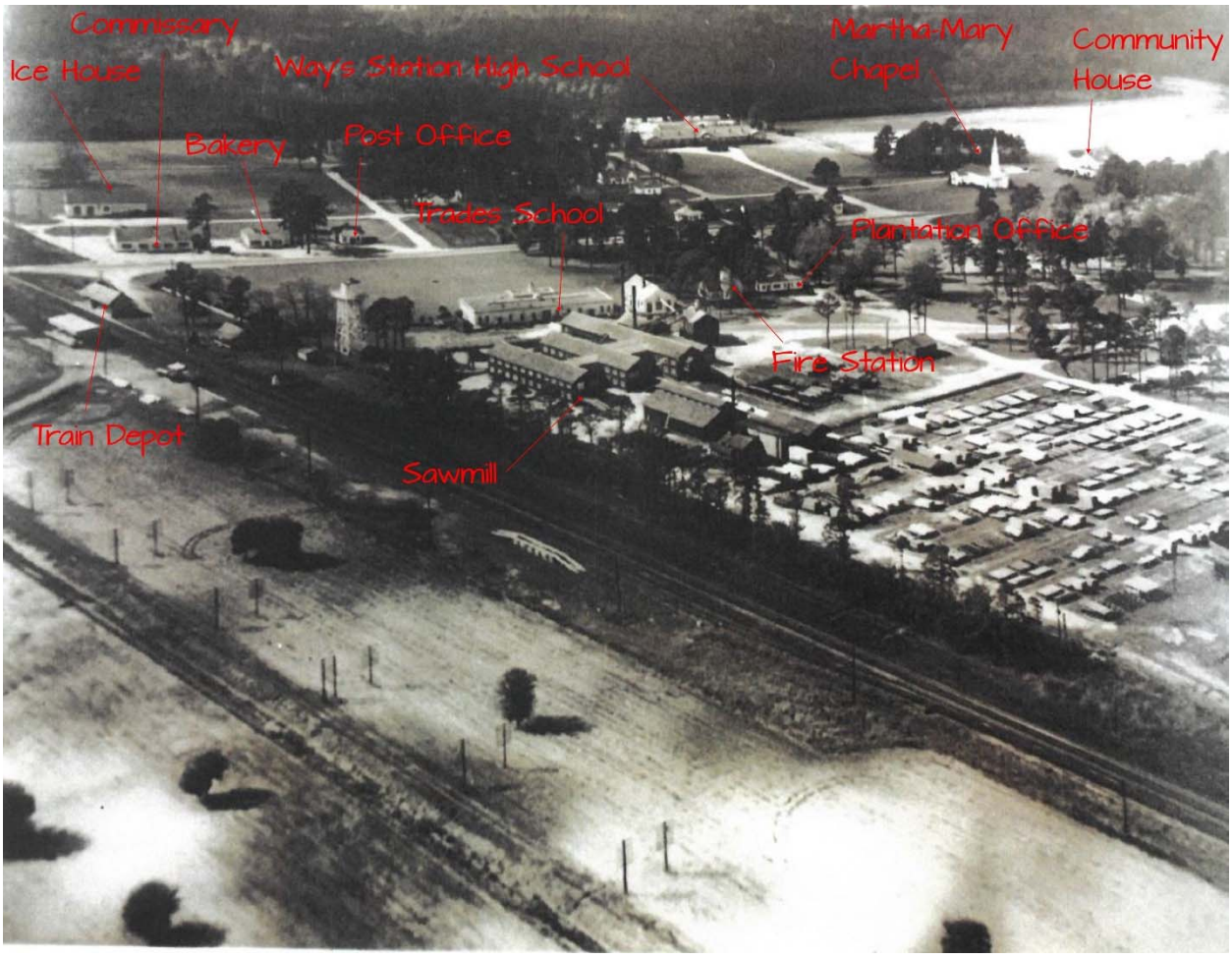


Figure 11: Historic aerial image of Richmond Hill during the Ford era, looking southwest (Ford Benson Research Center).

The resources that exist along Ford Avenue represent what remains of the commercial buildings built by Henry Ford. Of those pictured above, seven buildings remain to include the Post Office, which was relocated to where it stands today in The Bottom (Figure 11). Outside of the image to the west (right), the Courthouse built by Ford likewise remains, in its original location. Together, these buildings make up a commercial cluster of Ford era resources along what is now Ford Avenue (State Route 144). Geographically clustered by the bookends of the Seaboard Air Line railroad to the east and Highway 17 to the west, there is a logic to their location, at the heart of what is today Richmond Hill's commercial core. Further, the clustering of these buildings contributes to the area's potential eligibility for listing as a district on the National Register.

A direct result of its central location, prominence, and popularity, the central commercial area, surrounding the buildings shown above, is currently undergoing what is believed to be the beginnings of rapid change. With the city's ever-increasing population, it is estimated that new construction and demolition pressure will arise, as seen with the **Ford Bakery (GNARHGIS #262725)** building, saved by the City following such a request.

Thus, it is highly recommended that the 'Ford Commercial Area' be protected in the short term with the establishment of a local historic district. The subsequent initiation of the Certificate of Appropriateness

(COA) process, will require the review of all building permit applications within the district. Applications for demolition, relocation, and exterior material changes would then be put forth to the Historic Preservation Commission for review. While potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, local designation is recommended for establishment first as it is the only one that provides for design review and demolition protection.

The establishment of local districts is likewise recommended for the resources in The Bottom, Blueberry Village, and for the cluster of residential resources associated with the original Ways Station School. This would provide these residential areas with the same protections as those listed above for the 'Ford Commercial Area.'

Integral to the success of local historic districts is the development of design guidelines. While not unfamiliar to Richmond Hill, as seen in the establishment of overlay districts regulating new construction, currently no protection of this type exists for Richmond Hill's historic resources. As such, it is recommended that a design guidelines manual be prepared for each local historic district as it's created. A supplementary tool used to assist COA applicants, these manuals are designed to be user-friendly documents that illustrate the principles behind local historic district design review. While one single document could be produced for the 'Ford Commercial Area,' a single residential document could govern The Bottom, Blueberry Village, and residential resources associated with the original Ways Station School.

With the establishment of a National Register historic district, additional incentives for historic rehabilitation will be made available, to include state historic tax credits for residential properties, and state and federal historic tax credits for income-producing properties.

The creation of local incentives for rehabilitation, provided to those who adhere to the adopted guidelines is also recommended. Through the development of a cost-match program, up to a certain amount, the Downtown Development Authority could work with the Historic Preservation Commission to develop a program that incentivized sensitive historic rehabilitation work. Emphasis could be placed on the removal of non-historic materials such as vinyl and aluminum siding with design decisions governed by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and recommendations outlined in the design guidelines manual. Other opportunities to incentivize such work could include competitive low-interest loans, reduced permitting or tap fees, or an adjustment of parking requirements.

The availability of these incentives, when publicized, can serve as a catalyst for renewal, ensuring that sensitive changes to buildings are prioritized while providing a cost reduction for renovation work.

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Appendix 1: Index of Historic Resources Surveyed

GNAHRGIS ID	TYPE	NAME	ADDRESS	PARCEL #	CURRENT USE	YEAR BUILT	ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	TYPE
1303	Building	Community House	10512 Ford Avenue	0532 125	Funerary > Mortuarial > Funeral home	1936	Colonial Revival	Georgian House
1304	Building	Martha Mary Chapel	10550 Ford Avenue	0532 124	Religious > Religious Facility	1937	Colonial Revival	Church > Central Tower
1309	Building	Single Dwelling	1890 Hwy 17	DEMO	Demolished	1930	No academic style	Extended Hall Parlor
1320	Building	Single Dwelling	1797 Belfast Keller Road	DEMO	Demolished	1907	No academic style	Central Hallway Cottage
1321	Building	General Store	1797 Belfast Keller Road	DEMO	Demolished	1909	No academic style	Commercial > Community Store
1322	Building	Single Dwelling	2318 Belfast Keller Road	DEMO	Demolished	1939	No academic style	Hall-Parlor
1339	Building	Single Dwelling	Port Royal Road	055 007	Vacant	1910	No academic style	Bungalow > Hip
1340	Building	Single Dwelling	Corner of Port Royal Road and Harris Trail Road	055 041	Vacant	1899	No academic style	Hall-Parlor
1341	Building	Single Dwelling	W side Harris Trail Road, 1.6 miles W of GA 144	DEMO	Demolished	1930	Craftsman	Extended Hall Parlor
1342	Building	Single Dwelling	W side of Harris Trail Road, 3 miles W of GA 144	DEMO	Demolished	1874	No academic style	Single Pen
1343	Building	Single Dwelling	E side of Harris Trail Road, 2.7 miles W of GA 144	DEMO	Demolished	1939	No academic style	Extended Hall Parlor
1344	Building	Single Dwelling	1797 Harris Trail Road	055 045	Dwelling	1924	No academic style	Bungalow > Cross Gable
1345	Building	Single Dwelling	438 Barnard Road	DEMO	Demolished	1930	No academic style	Extended Hall Parlor
1346	Building	Single Dwelling	437 Barnard Road	DEMO	Demolished	1950	No academic style	N/A
1347	Building	Single Dwelling	W side of Harris Trail Road, 2 miles S of GA 144	DEMO	Demolished	1930	No academic style	Extended Hall Parlor
1348	Building	Single Dwelling	1760 Harris Trail Road	054 039	Dwelling	1929	No academic style	Central Hallway Cottage
1349	Building	Single Dwelling	Harris Trail Road	054 038	Vacant	1874	No academic style	Single Pen
1350	Building	Zion Baptist Church	Corner of Brisbon Road and Harris Trail Road	054 055	Vacant	1940	No academic style	Church > Front Gable
1351	Building	Single Dwelling	2704 Harris Trail Road	DEMO	Demolished	1920	No academic style	Extended Hall Parlor
1352	Building	Single Dwelling	S side of Bryan Neck Road, 1 mile S of US 17	DEMO	Demolished	1927	No academic style	Extended Hall Parlor
1353	Building	Ford Kindergarten	11460 Ford Avenue	054 069	Recreation, Culture, Entertainment » Museum	1940	Colonial Revival	N/A
1355	Building	Richmond Hill Plantation Office	230 Greenwich Drive	0532 104	Dwelling	1940	Colonial Revival	N/A
1356	Building	JF Gregory House	85 Richard Davis Drive	0531 051	Government > Government Office > City	1940	Colonial Revival	American Small House
1357	Building	Bryan County Courthouse Annex	9930 Ford Avenue	0531 024	Social and Civic > Civic/humanitarian	1938	Neoclassical Revival	Governmental > County Courthouse
1358	Building	Cloud 10 Salon	10646 Ford Avenue	0532 121	Commerce and Trade > Specialty Store	1939	Craftsman	Bungalow > Front Gable
1359	Building	"The Paint Store"	10634 Ford Avenue	0532 122	Commerce and Trade > Office	1940	No academic style	N/A
1360	Building	Postmaster's House	10686 Ford Avenue	0532 118	Commerce and Trade > Specialty Store	1930	Craftsman	Bungalow > Cross Gable
1361	Building	Canaan Missionary Baptist Church	10872 Ford Avenue	0532 158	Religious > Religious Facility	1947	No academic style	Church > Central Tower
1362	Building	Single Dwelling	10904 Ford Avenue	0532 175	Commerce and Trade > Office	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1363	Building	Office Manager's House	10950 Ford Avenue	0532 176	Commerce and Trade > Office	1932	Colonial Revival	American Small House
1364	Building	Dr. Ukkelberg House	10982 Ford Avenue	0532 178	Commerce and Trade > Office	1939	Colonial Revival	N/A
1365	Building	Mitchum House	11026 Ford Avenue	0532 179	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1366	Building	Single Dwelling	90 Cherokee Street	0541 045	Dwelling	1939	Colonial Revival	Bungalow > Hip
1367	Building	Single Dwelling	166 Cherokee Street	0541 048	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1368	Building	Single Dwelling	184 Cherokee Street	0541 049	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1369	Building	Single Dwelling	294 Cherokee Street	0541 054	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1370	Building	Single Dwelling	320 Cherokee Street	0541 055	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	N/A
1371	Building	Single Dwelling	386 Magnolia Street	0541 027	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1372	Building	Single Dwelling	385 Magnolia Street	541028	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1373	Building	Single Dwelling	363 Magnolia Street	0541 029	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1374	Building	Single Dwelling	364 Magnolia Street	0541 026	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1375	Building	Single Dwelling	346 Magnolia Street	0541 025	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1376	Building	Single Dwelling	345 Magnolia Street	0541 030	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1377	Building	Robert Sharpe House	317 Magnolia Street	0541 031	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1378	Building	Single Dwelling	254 Magnolia Street	0541 021	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	Bungalow > Front gable
1379	Building	Single Dwelling	274 Magnolia Street	0541 022	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1380	Building	Single Dwelling	298 Magnolia Street	0541 023	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1381	Building	Bailey Carpenter House	297 Magnolia Street	0541 032	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1382	Building	Single Dwelling	271 Magnolia Street	0541 033	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1383	Building	Single Dwelling	251 Magnolia Street	0541 034	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	Bungalow > Front gable
1384	Building	Single Dwelling	227 Magnolia Street	0541 035	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1385	Building	Single Dwelling	201 Magnolia Street	0541 036	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1386	Building	Single Dwelling	185 Magnolia Street	0541 037	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1387	Building	Single Dwelling	145 Magnolia Street	0541 039	Dwelling	1945	No academic style	N/A
1388	Building	Single Dwelling	115 Magnolia Street	0541 040	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1389	Building	Single Dwelling	88 Magnolia Street	0532 185	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1390	Building	Single Dwelling	116 Magnolia Street	0532 184	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1391	Building	Single Dwelling	62 Mimosa Street	0532 177	Dwelling	1939	No academic style	American Small House
1392	Building	Single Dwelling	88 Mimosa Street	5320174	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1393	Building	Single Dwelling	112 Mimosa Street	0532 173	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1394	Building	Single Dwelling	144 Mimosa Street	0532 170	Work in progress	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1395	Building	Single Dwelling	164 Mimosa Street	0532 167	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1396	Building	Single Dwelling	184 Mimosa Street	0532 166	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1397	Building	Single Dwelling	232 Mimosa Street	0541 002	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1398	Building	Single Dwelling	250 Mimosa Street	0541 003	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1399	Building	Single Dwelling	274 Mimosa Street	0541 004	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1400	Building	Single Dwelling	294 Mimosa Street	0541 005	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	Bungalow > Front gable
1401	Building	Single Dwelling	316 Mimosa Street	0541 006	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1402	Building	Single Dwelling	346 Mimosa Street	0541 007	Dwelling	1910	No academic style	Central Hallway Cottage
1403	Building	Duplex Dwelling	374 Mimosa Street	0541 008	Dwelling > Multiple	1910	No academic style	Saddlebag
1404	Building	Single Dwelling	381 Mimosa Street	0541 009	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1405	Building	Single Dwelling	365 Mimosa Street	0541 010	Demolished	1944	No academic style	N/A
1406	Building	Single Dwelling	345 Mimosa Street	0541 011	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	Bungalow > Front Gable
1407	Building	Single Dwelling	315 Mimosa Street	0541 012	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1408	Building	Single Dwelling	295 Mimosa Street	0541 013	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1409	Building	Single Dwelling	273 Mimosa Street	0541 014	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1410	Building	Single Dwelling	247 Mimosa Street	0541 015	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1411	Building	Single Dwelling	231 Mimosa Street	0541 016	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1412	Building	Single Dwelling	111 Mimosa Street	0532 183	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House

GNAHRGIS ID	TYPE	NAME	ADDRESS	PARCEL #	CURRENT USE	YEAR BUILT	ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	TYPE
1413	Building	Single Dwelling	89 Mimosa Street	0532 182	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1414	Building	Single Dwelling	85 Pinecrest Street	0532 172	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1415	Building	Single Dwelling	107 Pinecrest Street	0532 171	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1416	Building	Single Dwelling	147 Pinecrest Street	0532 169	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1417	Building	Single Dwelling	167 Pinecrest Street	0532 168	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1418	Building	Single Dwelling	183 Pinecrest Street	0532 165	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1419	Building	Single Dwelling	205 Pinecrest Street	0532 163	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1420	Building	Old Post Office	114 Parkwood Avenue	0541 001	Dwelling	1900	No academic style	Education>School>One Room
1421	Building	Single Dwelling	196 Dogwood Avenue	DEMO	Demolished	1944	No academic style	Single Pen
1422	Building	Outgoing Mail Building	Cherry Street	0532 153 02	Vacant	1940	No academic style	Governmental > Post Office
1423	Building	Single Dwelling	71 Cherry Street	DEMO	Demolished	1924	No academic style	Central Hallway Cottage
1424	Building	Single Dwelling	W side of Cherry Street, .1 mile S of GA 144	DEMO	Demolished	1944	No academic style	Extended Hall Parlor
1425	Building	Martin House	74 Linwood Avenue	0532 139	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	N/A
1426	Building	Single Dwelling	50 Linwood Avenue	0532 138	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1427	Building	Leslie and Lucy Long House	36 Linwood Avenue	0532 137	Dwelling	1940	Colonial Revival	Bungalow > Side gable
1428	Building	Principal's House	64 Maple Street	0532 134	Dwelling	1934	Colonial Revival	Central Hallway Cottage
1429	Building	Hobbs House	63 Maple Street	0532 133	Dwelling	1934	Colonial Revival	Central Hallway Cottage
1430	Building	William Burch House	62 Maple Street	0532 132	Dwelling	1934	Colonial Revival	Central Hallway Cottage
1431	Building	Dick and Pearl Carpenter House	940 Maple Street	0532 131	Dwelling	1944	Colonial Revival	N/A
1432	Building	Former Post Office	104 Dogwood Avenue	0532 120	Commerce and Trade > Specialty Store	1944	Colonial Revival	Governmental > Post Office
1433	Building	Richmond Hill Teacherage	116 Ivey Street	0532 141	Dwelling	1944	Colonial Revival	N/A
1434	Building	Single Dwelling	51 Linwood Avenue	0532 140	Dwelling	1944	Colonial Revival	Saddlebag
1435	Building	Single Dwelling	11 2nd Street	0431 150	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	Bungalow > Front Gable
1436	Building	Single Dwelling	300 Camellia Street	0461 162 01	Dwelling	1920	No academic style	Hall-Parlor
1437	Building	Single Dwelling	218 Camellia Street	0461 165	Vacant	1930	Craftsman	Bungalow > Front Gable
1438	Building	Single Dwelling	160 Camellia Street	0461 167	Dwelling	1930	No academic style	Pyramid cottage
1439	Building	Single Dwelling	21 Camellia Street	0461 134	Vacant	1940	No academic style	Bungalow > Front gable
1440	Building	Single Dwelling	8990 GA Hwy 144	DEMO	Demolished	1927	Craftsman	Extended Hall Parlor
1441	Building	Single Dwelling	86 Clark Street	0461 066	Dwelling	1924	No academic style	Hall-Parlor
1442	Building	Richmond Hill United Methodist Church - Clyde Chapel	9050 Ford Avenue	0461 091	Religion > Religious Facility	1946	Greek Revival	Church > Central Tower
1443	Building	Single Dwelling	S side of GA 144, .8 miles E of US 95	DEMO	Demolished	1940	No academic style	Bungalow > Hip
1444	Building	The Junk House Antiques	W side of Hwy 17, .3 miles S of GA Hwy 144	DEMO	Demolished	1897	No academic style	Georgian Cottage
1445	Building	Unknown	W side of US 17, .3 miles N of US 95	DEMO	Demolished	1919	No academic style	N/A
1446	Building	Single Dwelling	S side of GA 144, .1 miles W of US 95	DEMO	Demolished	1939	Colonial Revival	Georgian Cottage
1448	Building	Single Dwelling	89 Laurel Street	0461 005	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
1450	Building	Single Dwelling	177 Laurel Street	0461 008	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1451	Building	Single Dwelling	197 Laurel Street	0461 009	Dwelling	1940	Colonial Revival	American Small House
1452	Building	Single Dwelling	200 Laurel Street	0461 010	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1453	Building	Single Dwelling	176 Laurel Street	0461 011	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1454	Building	Single Dwelling	148 Laurel Street	0461 012	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1455	Building	Single Dwelling	128 Laurel Street	0461 013	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1456	Building	Single Dwelling	110 Laurel Street	0461 014	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
1457	Building	Single Dwelling	88 Laurel Street	0461 015	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	Bungalow>Front gable
1458	Building	Single Dwelling	64 Laurel Street	0461 017 01	Dwelling	1950	No academic style	American Small House
1459	Building	Single Dwelling	109 Oleander Street	0461 022	Dwelling	1954	No academic style	American Small House
1460	Building	Single Dwelling	145 Oleander Street	0461 024	Vacant	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1461	Building	Single Dwelling	175 Oleander Street	0461 025	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1462	Building	Single Dwelling	195 Oleander Street	0461 026	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1463	Building	Single Dwelling	200 Oleander Street	0461 027	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1464	Building	Single Dwelling	178 Oleander Street	0461 028	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1465	Building	Single Dwelling	146 Oleander Street	0461 029	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1466	Building	Single Dwelling	128 Oleander Street	0461 030	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1467	Building	Single Dwelling	110 Oleander Street	0461 031	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
1468	Building	Single Dwelling	88 Oleander Street	0461 032	Dwelling	1944	No academic style	American Small House
1469	Building	Single Dwelling	40 Oleander Street	0461 0033	Vacant	1944	No academic style	N/A
1470	Building	Single Dwelling	65 Spruce Street	0461 038	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	Gabled Ell Cottage
1471	Building	Single Dwelling	87 Spruce Street	0461 039	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	Bungalow>Front gable
1472	Building	Single Dwelling	107 Spruce Street	0461 040	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1473	Building	Single Dwelling	129 Spruce Street	0461 041	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1474	Building	Single Dwelling	149 Spruce Street	0461 042	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1475	Building	Single Dwelling	177 Spruce Street	0461 043	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1476	Building	Single Dwelling	199 Spruce Street	0461 044	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
1477	Building	Single Dwelling	150 Spruce Street	0461 047	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
1478	Building	Single Dwelling	130 Spruce Street	0461 048	Demolished	1954	No academic style	Bungalow > Cross Gable
1479	Building	Single Dwelling	110 Spruce Street	0461 049	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1480	Building	Single Dwelling	90 Spruce Street	0461 050	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
1481	Building	Single Dwelling	78 Spruce Street	0461 053	Dwelling	1935	No academic style	Bungalow > Front Gable
220428	Building	Single Dwelling	230 Ponderosa Street	0473 019	Dwelling	1965	Plain Style	Ranch > Courtyard
220430	Building	Single Dwelling	235 Ponderosa Road	0473 020	Dwelling	1967	Plain Style	Ranch > Courtyard
220432	Building	Single Dwelling	210 Ponderosa Street	0473 018	Dwelling	1963	Plain Style	Ranch > Linear
220433	Building	Single Dwelling	114 Ponderosa Road	0473 016	Dwelling	1955	Plain Style	Ranch > L shaped
220448	Building	First House	Ponderosa Road	DEMO	Demolished	1929	No academic style	Shotgun
220449	Building	Single Dwelling	4842 Hwy 17	0472 0012	Vacant	1920	Neoclassical Revival	Georgian Cottage
221242	Building	Single Dwelling	Harris Trail Road	DEMO	Demolished	1894	No academic style	Unknown
221243	Building	Single Dwelling	674 Timber Trail	054 018	Dwelling	1945	No academic style	Bungalow > Side gable
221245	Building	Single Dwelling	1743 Harris Trail Road	DEMO	Demolished	1929	No academic style	Central Hallway Cottage
249993	Building	Ways Station School Gymnasium	120 Constitution Way	0532 130	Social and Civic > Gender/Race/Age > Youth	1945	No academic style	N/A
262288	Building	Single Dwelling	178 Spruce Street	0461 046	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
262290	Building	Single Dwelling	34 Edgewood Avenue	0461 043	Dwelling	1915	No academic style	N/A

GNAHRGIS ID	TYPE	NAME	ADDRESS	PARCEL #	CURRENT USE	YEAR BUILT	ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	TYPE
262291	Building	Single Dwelling	147 Laurel Street	0461 007	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
262293	Building	Single Dwelling	51 Camellia Street	0461 135	Dwelling	1930	No academic style	Queen Anne Cottage
262294	Building	Ford Avenue Motors	8964 Ford Avenue	0461 127	Road related > Gas/service station	1970	No academic style	Road related > Gas/service station
262295	Building	Single Dwelling	8974 Ford Avenue	0461 128	Vacant	1940	No academic style	American Small House
262404	Landscape Feature	Silk Hope Plantation Oak Allee	Silk Hope Drive	Not listed	Landscape	1850	No academic style	N/A
262406	Site	Silk Hope Cemetery	N Side of Silk Hope Drive	0544 085CA	Vacant	1800	No academic style	Cemetery > Family
262407	Structure	Little LuLu Dock	N Side of Little LuLu Lane	0549 085	Water Transport > Dock	1945	No academic style	Water Transport > Dock
262414	Building	Caretaker House	244 Little LuLu Lane	0549 002	Dwelling	1930	No academic style	American Small House
262425	Site	Cherry Hill Cemetery	N Side of Little LuLu Lane	Not listed	Funerary > multiple		No academic style	Cemetery > Family
262496	Building	Dynamite Shed	S Side Myrtle Grove Lane	0544 201	Commerce and Trade > Storage	1940	No academic style	Agricultural > Outbuildings > Storage Shed
262499	Landscape Feature	Cherry Hill Plantation Oak Allee	Bisected by Myrtle Grove Lane	0544 085CA	Landscape	1768	No academic style	N/A
262513	Building	Cherry Hill Plantation House	170 Cherry Laurel Way	0544 078	Dwelling > multiple	1874	Greek Revival	Georgian House
262536	Building	Ford Oyster House	375 McAllister Lodge	0547 007	Recreation, Culture, Entertainment > Museum/Exhibition	1940	No academic style	Agricultural > Outbuildings > Other
262537	Building	Ford Ice House	375 McAllister Lodge	0547 007	Recreation, Culture, Entertainment > Museum/Exhibition	1930	No academic style	Agricultural > Outbuildings > Icehouse
262541	Site	Richmond Plantation Cemetery	E Side of Ford Place	0544 085CA	Funerary > multiple	1897	No academic style	Cemetery > Family
262545	Building	Richmond Hill Plantation	NW of Ford Place and Jimmy Blige Lane	0547 050	Social and Civic > Clubhouse	1936	Greek Revival	Georgian House
262556	Landscape Feature	Richmond Plantation Oak Allee	NW of Ford Place and Tranquilla Drive	0547 050	Landscape	1850	No academic style	N/A
262558	Building	Richmond Plantation Rice Mill	332 Jimmy Blidge Lane	0548 037	Dwelling	1870	No academic style	Industrial > Rural Mill
262569	Building	Servants House	141 Rice Mill Lane	0548 044	Work in Progress	1937	Colonial Revival	N/A
262571	Building	Ford Garage	141 Rice Mill Lane	0548 043	Agriculture > Animal Facility > Horses	1937	No academic style	Road related > Parking > Structure
262572	Building	First Baptist Church	9184 Ford Avenue	0461 086	Religious > Religious Facility	1958	No academic style	Church > Front gable
262573	Building	Kenon Shuman House	279 Forest Street	0461 080	Dwelling	1920	No academic style	Bungalow > Front Gable
262576	Building	Single Dwelling	185 Forest Street	0461 076	Dwelling	1950	Plain Style	Ranch > L-shaped
262578	Building	Single Dwelling	261 Forest Street	0461 071	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	Side Gabled Cottage
262580	Site	Bethlehem Cemetery	9607 Ford Avenue	0531 005	Funerary > multiple	1918	No academic style	Cemetery > Family
262581	Building	Upper Crust Pizza	1702 Hwy 17	053 008 02	Commerce and Trade > Food Services > Restaurant	1955	No academic style	Road related > Gas/service station
262589	Building	Filling Station	1702 B Highway 17	053 008 02	Commerce and Trade > Specialty Store	1955	No academic style	Road related > Gas/service station
262690	Building	Richmond Hill Coastal Utilities Incorporated	9898 Ford Avenue	0531 021	Government > Public Works	1960	Modern Movement - Other	Commercial > Single Retail
262700	Building	VFW Post 7331	9934 Ford Avenue	0531 024	Social and Civic > Meeting Hall	1965	no academic style	Lodge Hall > Small Town
262725	Building	Ford Bakery	10750 Ford Avenue	0532 116	Government > Government Office > City	1939	no academic style	N/A
262726	Building	Richmond Hill Commissary	10770 Ford Avenue	0532 115	Religion > Religious Facility	1941	no academic style	Commercial > Community Store
262754	Building	Bailey Carpenter's Barbershop	11460 Ford Avenue	054 069	Recreation, Culture, Entertainment » Museum	1938	No academic style	N/A
262756	Building	Single Dwelling	202 Mimosa Street	0532 164	Work in progress	1940	No academic style	American Small House
262776	Building	Single Dwelling	87 Magnolia Street	0541 041	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
262777	Building	Single Dwelling	61 Magnolia Street	0541 042	Dwelling	1970	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
262778	Building	Single Dwelling	114 Cherokee Street	0541 046	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
262779	Building	Single Dwelling	148 Cherokee Street	0541 047	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
262780	Building	Single Dwelling	230 Cherokee Street	0541 051	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
262785	Building	Sheppard House	62 Ivey Street	0532 144	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
262786	Building	County Baseball Annex	Corner Parkwood Ave. and Mimosa Stree	0541 017	Recreation, Culture, Entertainment > Sports Facility	1965	Plain Style	N/A
262787	Building	Baseball House	Corner Parkwood Ave. and Mimosa Stree	0541 017	Recreation, Culture, Entertainment > Sports Facility	1945	No academic style	N/A
262788	Building	Single Dwelling	165 Magnolia Street	0541 038	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
262799	Building	Single Dwelling	228 Magnolia Street	0541 020	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
262805	Building	Single Dwelling	124 Avalon Avenue	0532 088	Dwelling	1975	Plain Style	Split Level
262807	Building	Single Dwelling	35 Greenwich Drive	0532 076	Dwelling	1975	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
262808	Building	Single Dwelling	106 Greenwich Drive	0532 096	Dwelling	1975	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
262809	Building	Single Dwelling	51 Hill Avenue	0532 094	Dwelling	1973	No academic style	Ranch > L-shaped
262810	Building	Single Dwelling	880 White Oak Lane	046 010 06	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	N/A
262811	Building	Single Dwelling	580 White Oak Lane	046 013	Dwelling	1935	No academic style	Bungalow > Front Gable
262812	Building	Single Dwelling	546 White Oak Lane	046 014	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	Bungalow > Front Gable
262813	Building	Single Dwelling	435 White Oak Lane	047 001	Dwelling	1960	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
262814	Building	Single Dwelling	840 Brisbon Road	054 064	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	Manufactured Home
262815	Building	Juke Joint	Next to 840 Brisbon Road	054 065	Recreation, Culture, Entertainment > Music Facility	1960	No academic style	Commercial > Single Retail
262816	Building	Single Dwelling	173 Brisbon Road	0542 064	Dwelling	1945	No academic style	Bungalow > Cross gable
262817	Building	Single Dwelling	138 Brisbon Road	0542 052	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	Bungalow > Side gable
262818	Building	Single Dwelling	10 Riverbend Road	060 007 02	Dwelling	1965	No academic style	Bungalow > Side gable
262820	Building	Single Dwelling	185 Holly Hill Road	0542 050	Dwelling	1955	No academic style	American Small House
262821	Building	Single Dwelling	195 Holly Hill Road	0542 045	Dwelling	1955	No academic style	American Small House
262822	Building	Single Dwelling	213 Holly Hill Road	0542 044	Dwelling	1955	No academic style	American Small House
262823	Building	Single Dwelling	224 Holly Hill Road	0542 009	Dwelling	1960	No academic style	American Small House
262824	Building	Single Dwelling	175 Holly Hill Road	0542 047	Dwelling	1955	No academic style	American Small House
262825	Building	Single Dwelling	131 Holly Hill Road	0542 074	Dwelling	1955	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
262826	Building	Single Dwelling	16 Holly Hill Drive	0542 003	Dwelling	1945	No academic style	Bungalow > Front gable
262830	Building	Single Dwelling	32 Holly Hill Drive	0542 004	Dwelling	1960	No academic style	Manufactured Home
262831	Building	Single Dwelling	50 Holly Hill Drive	0542 005	Dwelling	1960	No academic style	Manufactured Home
262833	Building	Single Dwelling	66 Holly Hill Drive	0542 006	Dwelling	1970	No academic style	Manufactured Home
262834	Building	Single Dwelling	128 Holly Hill Road	0542 002	Dwelling	1955	No academic style	American Small House
262836	Building	Single Dwelling	1185 Harris Trail	054 019	Dwelling	1975	Plain Style	Manufactured Home
262875	Building	Plantation Ice House Foundation	Corner of Dogwood Avenue and Cherry Stree	0532 157	Vacant	1940	No academic style	Ruin
262877	Site	Cemetery	66 Rabbit Hill Road	0601 126	Funerary > multiple		No academic style	Cemetery > Family
262894	Building	Parker House	240 Cedar Street	053 009 07	Government Office	1932	No academic style	Georgian Cottage
262896	Building	Gordon Butler's Store	10610 Ford Avenue	0532 123	Commerce and Trade > Business/Office & Food Service	1925	No academic style	N/A
262902	Building	A-1 Motel	2940 Hwy. 17	046 019	Vacant	1930	No academic style	Place of Accommodation>Motel
262906	Building	Accessory Building to A-1 Motel	2940 Hwy. 17	046 019 02	Vacant	1935	No academic style	Place of Accommodation>Motel
262908	Building	Miner House	2496 Hwy. 17	0531 008	Dwelling	1910	No academic style	Extended Hall Parlor
262910	Building	Louise's Beauty Shop	1772 Harris Trail Road	054 039	Vacant	1960	No academic style	Commercial>Single Retail
262912	Object	Blue Star Memorial Historical Marker	Cedar Street	053 009	Monument	1958	No academic style	Monument
262916	Building	Ella's Greenhouse	10686 Ford Avenue	532916	Work in progress	1930	No academic style	Unknown
263021	Building	Fire Station Building	10425 Ford Avenue	0532 093	Commerce and Trade > Financial Institution	1940	Colonial Revival	American Small House

GNAHRGIS ID	TYPE	NAME	ADDRESS	PARCEL #	CURRENT USE	YEAR BUILT	ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	TYPE
263031	Site	Landscape Pool	on the corner of Ford Avenue and Hill Avenu	0532 102	Vacant	1945	No academic style	Ruin
263038	Building	Single Dwelling	270 Harris Trail Road	054 024	Dwelling	1945	No academic style	Bungalow > Front gable
263040	Building	Single Dwelling	next to 1322 Harris Trail Road	054 031	Dwelling	1930	No academic style	Bungalow > Front gable
263042	Building	Single Dwelling	1322 Harris Trail Road	054 032	Dwelling	1930	No academic style	Bungalow > Front gable
263045	Building	Single Dwelling	1746 Harris Trail Road	055 047	Vacant	1945	No academic style	N/A
263047	Building	Single Dwelling	1741 Harris Trail Road	055 043	Vacant	1950	No academic style	N/A
264776	Site	Richmond (Confederate) Battery	between Jimmy Blige Lane and Ogeechee River	0547 050	Vacant	1864	No academic style	Battlefield > Civil War
264895	Building	Convenience Store	8723 Ford Avenue	0461 001	Road related > Traveler services	1970	No academic style	Road related > Gas/service station
264981	Building	Calvary Holy Church of God	8933 Spruce Street	0461 035 01	Religion > Religious Facility	1975	Modern Movement - Other	Church > Front gable
264986	Building	Richmond Hill United Methodist Church	9050 Ford Avenue	0461 091	Religion > Religious Facility	1960	Modern Movement - Other	Church > Front gable
264987	Building	Bryan County Family Connection	9607 Ford Avenue	0531 005	Social and Civic > Civic/humanitarian	1970	No academic style	Unknown
264988	Building	KOA Savannah South	4915 Hwy 17	047 014	Recreation, Culture, Entertainment > Outdoor recreation	1973	Modern Movement - Other	N/A
264989	Building	Fast Food Restaurant	4110 Hwy 17	0474 003	Commerce and Trade > Food Service	1977	No academic style	Road related > Restaurant
264991	Building	Melody's Coastal Café	2518 Hwy 17	0531 014	Commerce and Trade > Food Service	1965	No academic style	Road related > Restaurant
265022	Building	Single Dwelling	88 Clark Street	0461 066 01	Dwelling	1930	Unknown	Unknown
265026	Building	Duplex Dwelling	Forest Street	0461 083	Vacant	1965	No academic style	N/A
265028	Building	Single Dwelling	101 Ralph Brown Drive	0461 070	Dwelling	1945	No academic style	Bungalow > Front gable
265034	Building	Single Dwelling	127 Laurel Street	0461 006	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
265045	Building	Single Dwelling	87 Oleander Street	0461 021	Dwelling	1940	No academic style	American Small House
265048	Building	Single Dwelling	184 Carter Street	0461 123	Dwelling	1950	No academic style	N/A
265050	Building	Single Dwelling	70 Pinecrest Street	0532 159	Dwelling	1950	No academic style	Bungalow > Side gable
265056	Building	Elmgren's Services and Nursery	30 Cherokee Street	0541 044	Commerce and Trade > Specialty store	1960	Plain Style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
265061	Building	Single Dwelling	146 Wildwood Drive	0541 056	Dwelling	1950	No academic style	Unknown
265066	Building	Single Dwelling	190 Camellia Street	0461 166	Dwelling	1970	Plain Style	Ranch > Compact
265069	Building	Single Dwelling	88 JP Rushing Street	0461 162	Vacant	1960	Plain Style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
265099	Building	Single Dwelling	11 Greenwich Drive	0532 077	Dwelling	1970	Plain Style	Ranch > Linear
265114	Building	Single Dwelling	76 Greenwich Drive	0532 096 01	Dwelling	1970	Plain Style	Ranch > Compact
265116	Building	Single Dwelling	46 Hermitage Drive	0532 069	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266412	Building	Single Dwelling	80 Hermitage Drive	0532 067	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266436	Building	Single Dwelling	96 Hermitage Drive	0532 066	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266439	Building	Single Dwelling	92 Avalon Avenue	0532 086	Dwelling	1975	No academic style	Unknown
266584	Building	Single Dwelling	106 Avalon Avenue	0532 087	Dwelling	1975	No academic style	Ranch > L shaped
266610	Building	Single Dwelling	24 Greenwich Drive	0532 091	Dwelling	1975	Plain Style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266614	Building	Single Dwelling	184 Greenwich Drive	0532 101	Dwelling	1970	Plain Style	Ranch > L shaped
266627	Building	Single Dwelling	160 Ponderosa Street	0473 017	Dwelling	1975	No academic style	Ranch > L shaped
266632	Building	Single Dwelling	175 Ponderosa Road	0473 022	Dwelling	1975	No academic style	Split Level
266658	Building	Single Dwelling	199 Ponderosa Road	0473 021	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > L shaped
266661	Building	Single Dwelling	72 Piercefield Drive	0474 013	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266664	Building	Single Dwelling	82 Piercefield Drive	0474 014	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266672	Building	Single Dwelling	100 Piercefield Drive	0474 015	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Manufactured House
266840	Building	Single Dwelling	109 Piercefield Drive	0474 326	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266843	Building	Single Dwelling	114 Piercefield Drive	0474 016	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Courtyard
266846	Building	Single Dwelling	130 Piercefield Drive	0474 017	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266850	Building	Single Dwelling	125 Piercefield Drive	0474 317	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266852	Building	Single Dwelling	141 Piercefield Drive	0474 316	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266876	Building	Single Dwelling	144 Piercefield Drive	0474 018	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266879	Building	Single Dwelling	159 Piercefield Drive	0474 314	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Courtyard
266883	Building	Single Dwelling	160 Piercefield Drive	0474 019	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266887	Building	Single Dwelling	171 Piercefield Drive	0474 311	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266892	Building	Single Dwelling	190 Piercefield Drive	0474 020	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266895	Building	Single Dwelling	189 Piercefield Drive	0474 308	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266897	Building	Single Dwelling	29 Quail Lane	0474 301	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266899	Building	Single Dwelling	61 Quail Lane	0474 303	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266900	Building	Single Dwelling	70 Quail Lane	0474 287	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266901	Building	Single Dwelling	81 Quail Lane	0474 304	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266903	Building	Single Dwelling	88 Quail Lane	0474 286	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266904	Building	Single Dwelling	95 Quail Lane	0474 305	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266905	Building	Single Dwelling	36 Mallard Lane	0474 279	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266927	Building	Single Dwelling	46 Mallard Lane	0474 278	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266929	Building	Single Dwelling	108 Mallard Lane	0474 274	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266932	Building	Single Dwelling	82 Osprey Drive	0474 369	Vacant	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266933	Building	Single Dwelling	66 Osprey Drive	0474 357	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266936	Building	Single Dwelling	28 Osprey Drive	0474 356	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266968	Building	Single Dwelling	509 Sandpiper Drive	0474 355	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266970	Building	Single Dwelling	493 Sandpiper Drive	0474 354	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266971	Building	Single Dwelling	481 Sandpiper Drive	0474 353	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266976	Building	Single Dwelling	465 Sandpiper Drive	0474 352	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266979	Building	Single Dwelling	435 Sandpiper Drive	0474 350	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266980	Building	Single Dwelling	419 Sandpiper Drive	0474 349	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266982	Building	Single Dwelling	391 Sandpiper Drive	0474 348	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266983	Building	Single Dwelling	373 Sandpiper Drive	0474 347	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266985	Building	Single Dwelling	357 Sandpiper Drive	0474 346	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266990	Building	Single Dwelling	441 Sandpiper Drive	0474 345	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266993	Building	Single Dwelling	327 Sandpiper Drive	0474 344	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
266996	Building	Single Dwelling	311 Sandpiper Drive	0474 343	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
266998	Building	Single Dwelling	275 Sandpiper Drive	0474 341	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267001	Building	Single Dwelling	261 Sandpiper Drive	0474 340	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267003	Building	Single Dwelling	241 Sandpiper Drive	0474 339	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267005	Building	Single Dwelling	232 Sandpiper Drive	0474 310	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear

GNAHRGIS ID	TYPE	NAME	ADDRESS	PARCEL #	CURRENT USE	YEAR BUILT	ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	TYPE
267018	Building	Single Dwelling	231 Sandpiper Drive	0474 338	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267020	Building	Single Dwelling	222 Sandpiper Drive	0474 312	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267021	Building	Single Dwelling	221 Sandpiper Drive	0474 337	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267023	Building	Single Dwelling	199 Sandpiper Drive	0474 336	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267024	Building	Single Dwelling	202 Sandpiper Drive	0474 313	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267025	Building	Single Dwelling	194 Sandpiper Drive	0474 315	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267026	Building	Single Dwelling	184 Sandpiper Drive	0474 318	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267027	Building	Single Dwelling	174 Sandpiper Drive	0474 319	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267028	Building	Single Dwelling	171 Sandpiper Drive	0474 335	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267029	Building	Single Dwelling	157 Sandpiper Drive	0474 334	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267037	Building	Single Dwelling	158 Sandpiper Drive	0474 320	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267039	Building	Single Dwelling	141 Sandpiper Drive	0474 333	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267040	Building	Single Dwelling	131 Sandpiper Drive	0474 332	Dwelling	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267041	Building	Single Dwelling	121 Sandpiper Drive	0474 331	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267042	Building	Single Dwelling	100 Sandpiper Drive	0474 321	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267043	Building	Single Dwelling	76 Sandpiper Drive	0474 322	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267044	Building	Single Dwelling	67 Sandpiper Drive	0474 330	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267045	Building	Single Dwelling	60 Sandpiper Drive	0474 323	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267046	Building	Single Dwelling	51 Sandpiper Drive	0474 329	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267047	Building	Single Dwelling	44 Sandpiper Drive	0474 324	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267048	Building	Single Dwelling	35 Sandpiper Drive	0474 328	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Compact
267049	Building	Single Dwelling	30 Sandpiper Drive	0474 325	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267050	Building	Single Dwelling	21 Sandpiper Drive	0474 327	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear
267051	Building	Single Dwelling	270 Sandpiper Drive	0474 306	Vacant	1978	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267052	Building	Single Dwelling	352 Sandpiper Drive	0474 285	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267053	Building	Single Dwelling	366 Sandpiper Drive	0474 284	Work in Progress	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear with clusters
267054	Building	Single Dwelling	384 Sandpiper Drive	0474 283	Dwelling	1977	No academic style	Ranch > Linear

Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey

Date: 8/8/2019

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- Survey Area
- Parcels

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GEORGIA

Spatial Engineering

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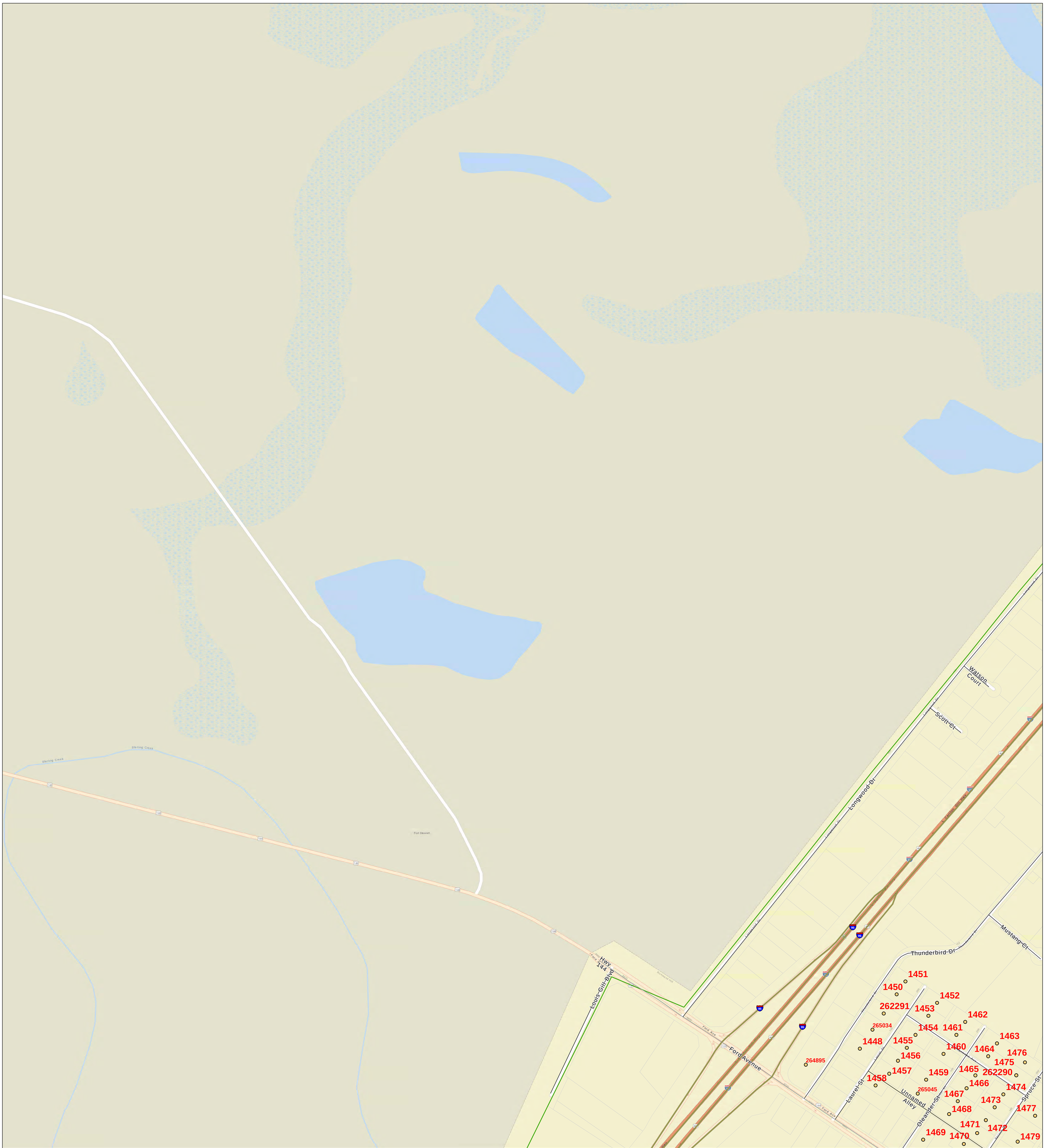

Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey

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Page 1 of 12

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Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey

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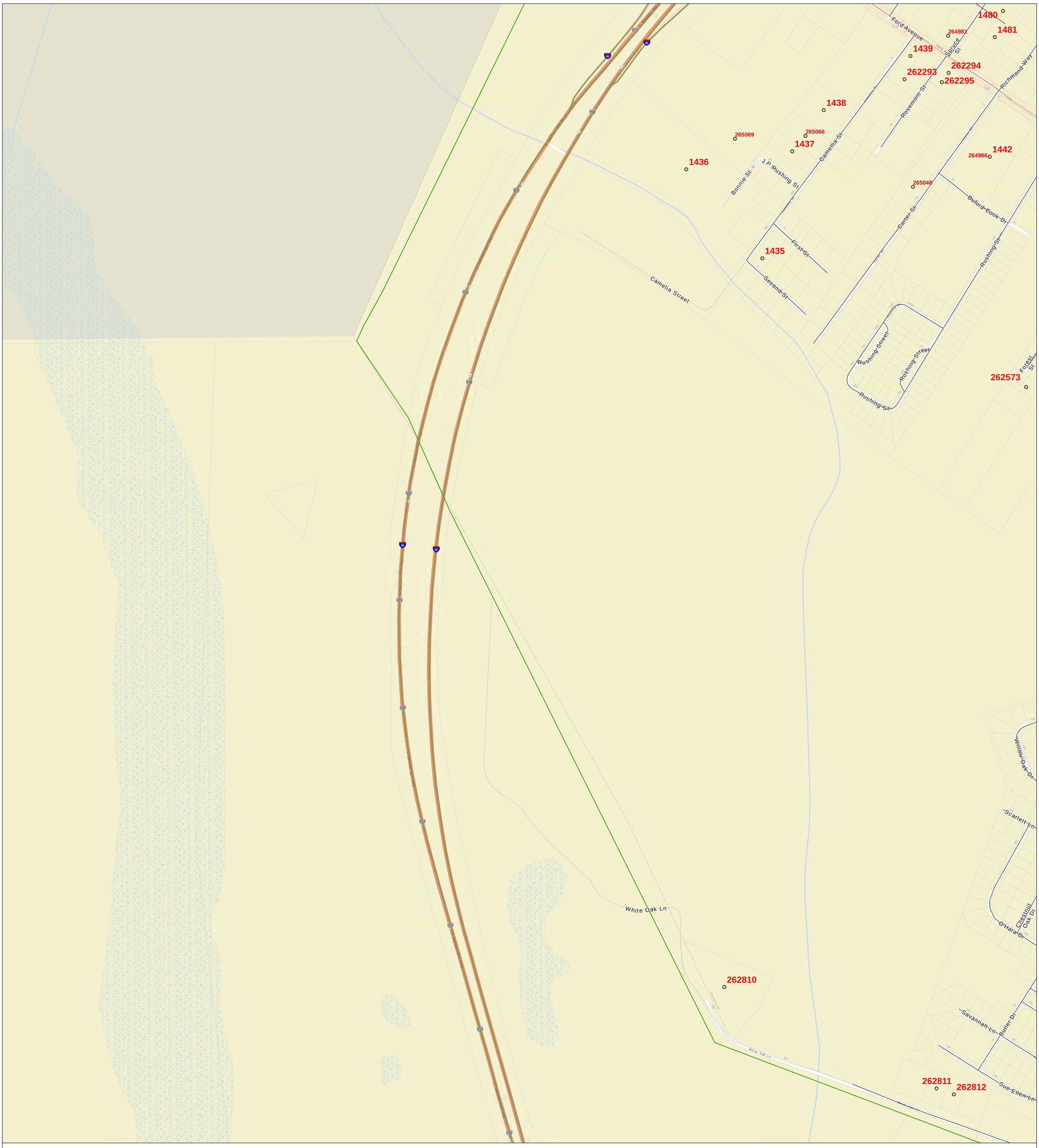

Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey

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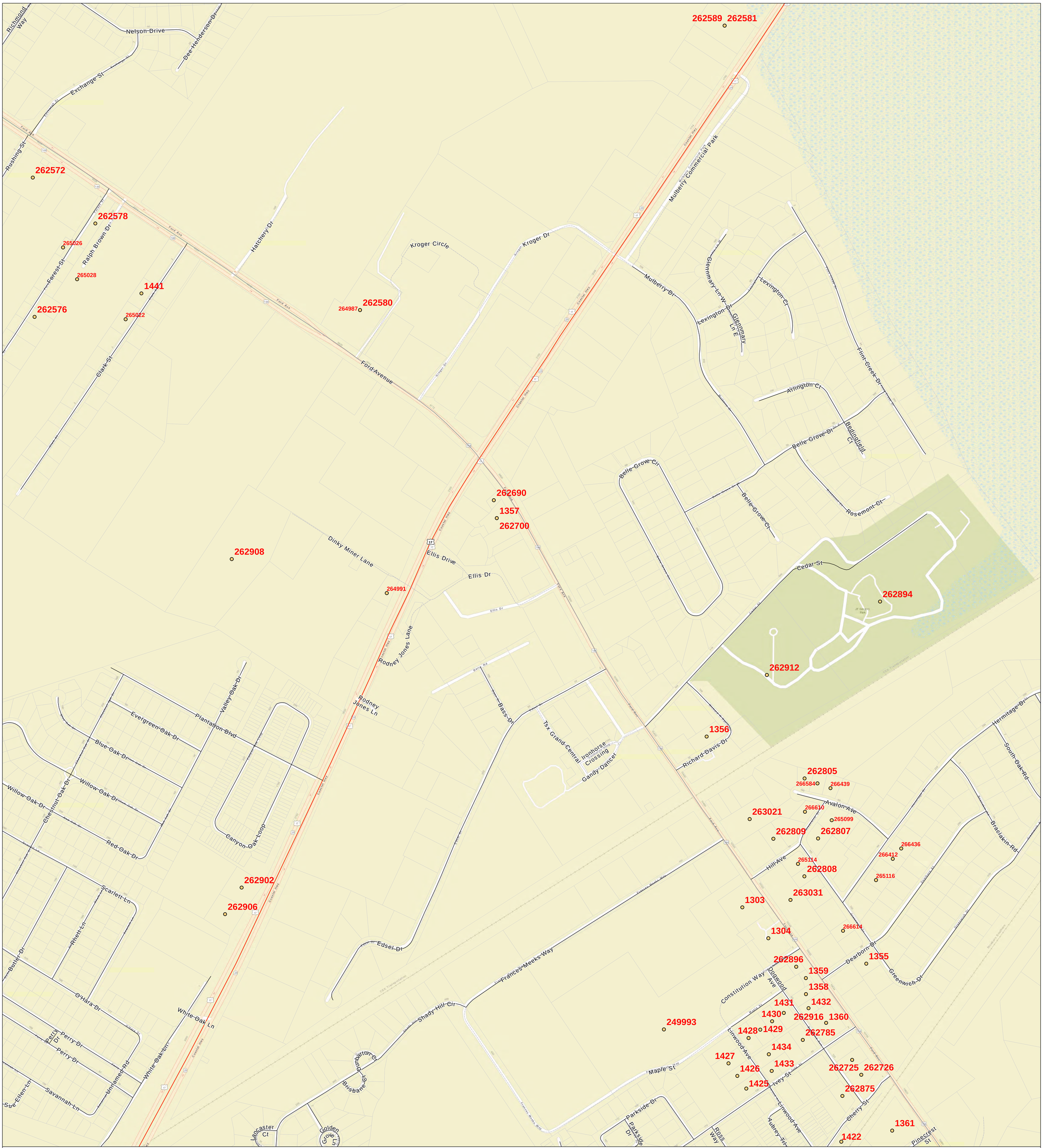

Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey

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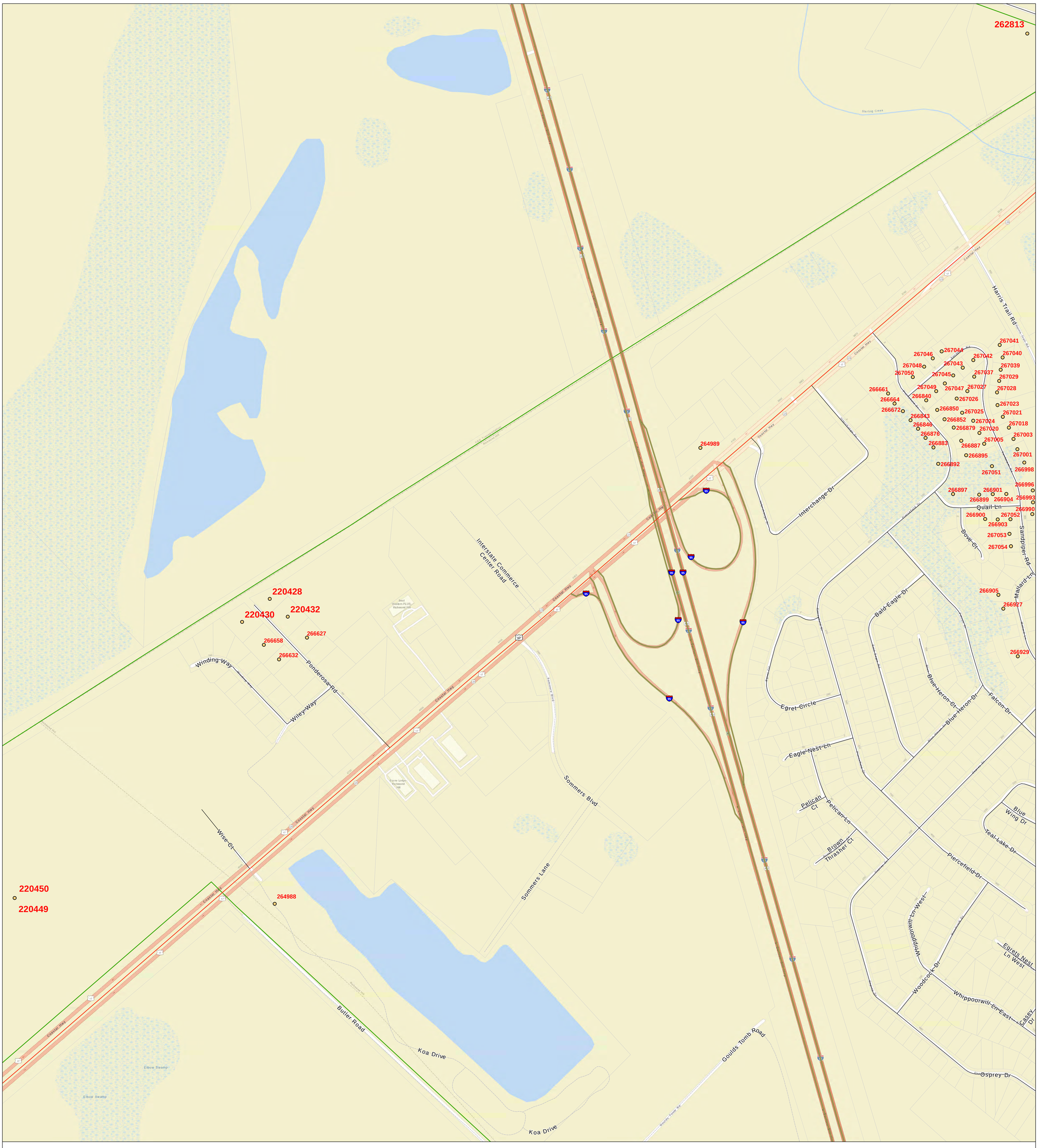

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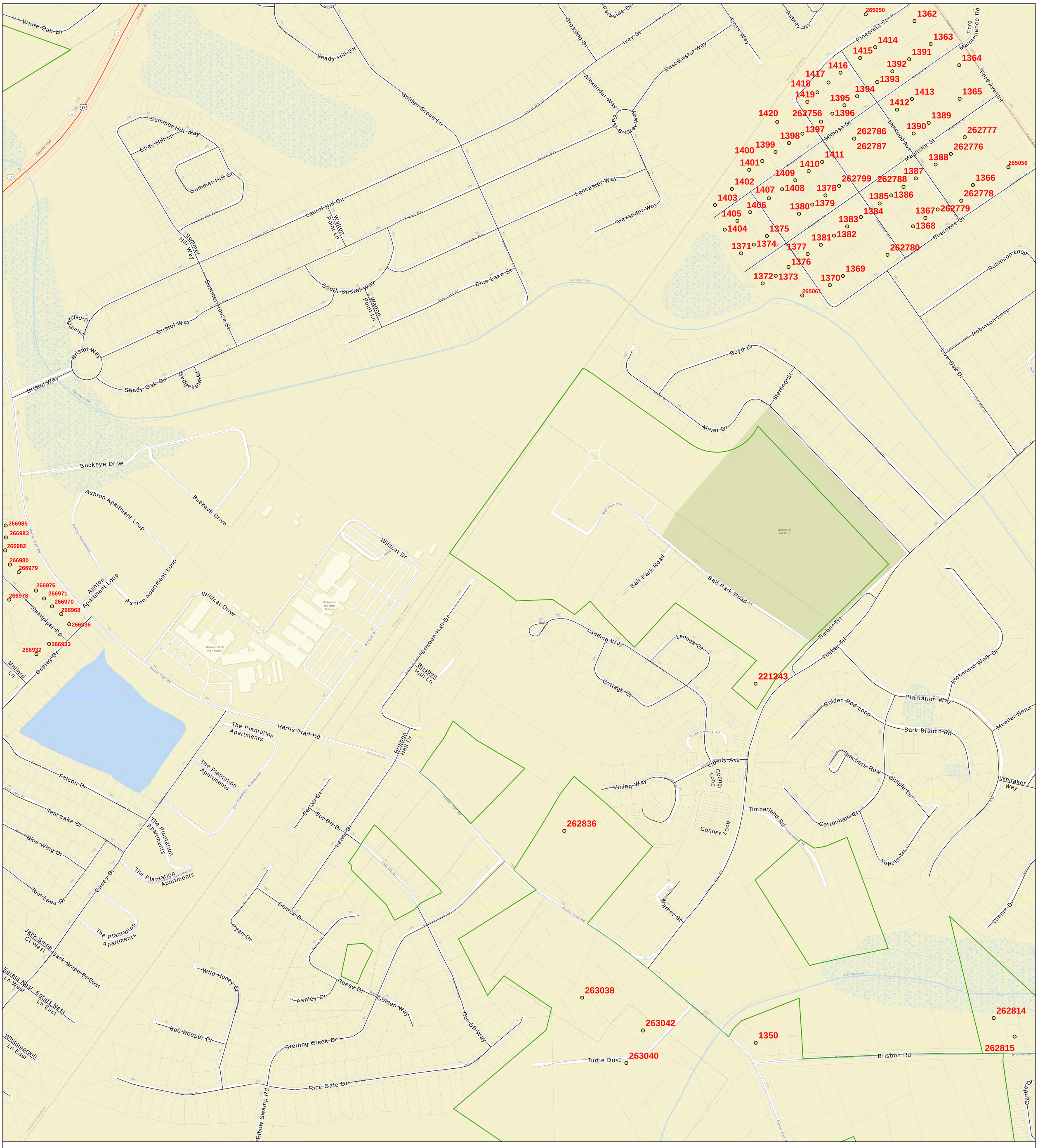

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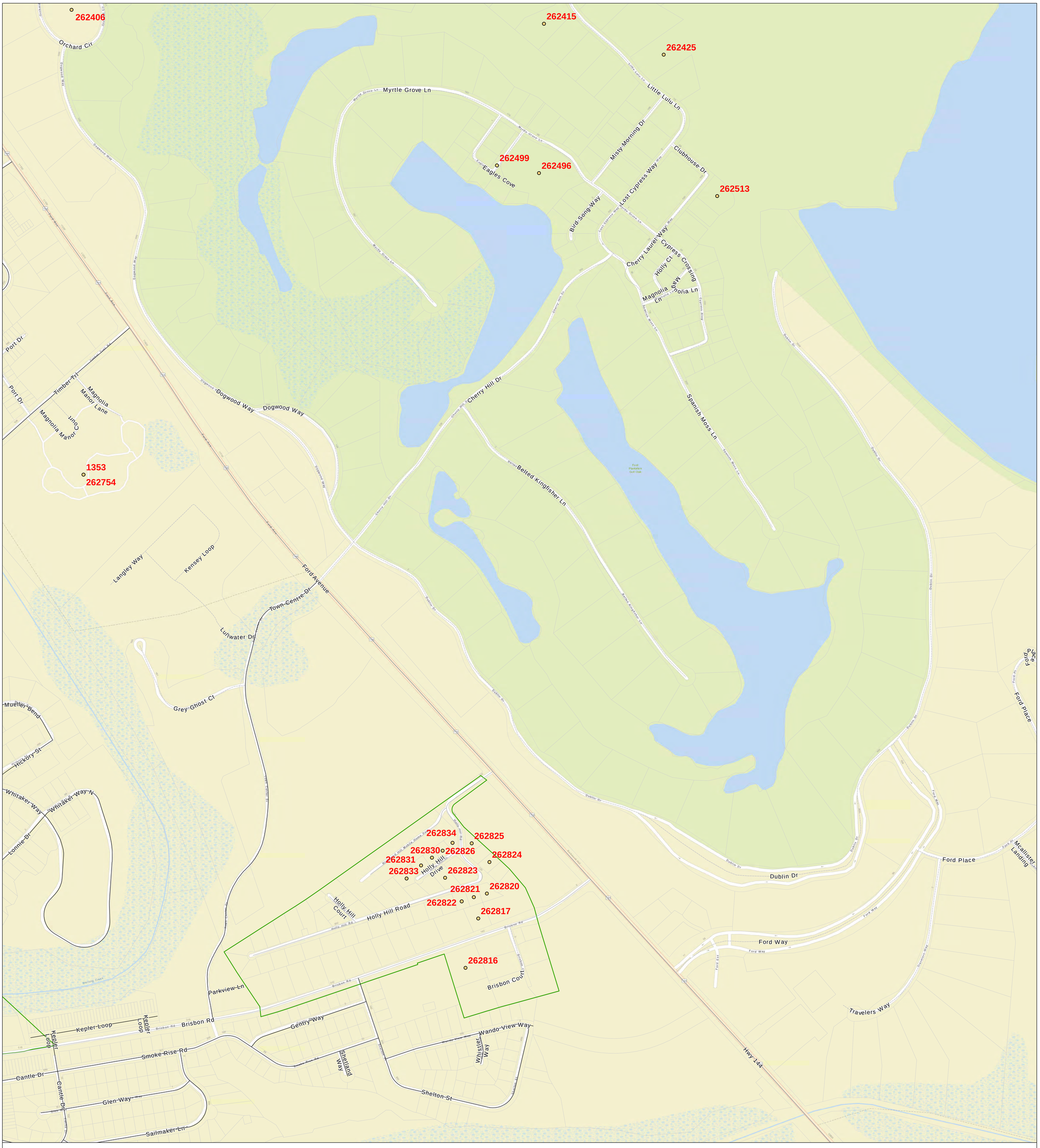

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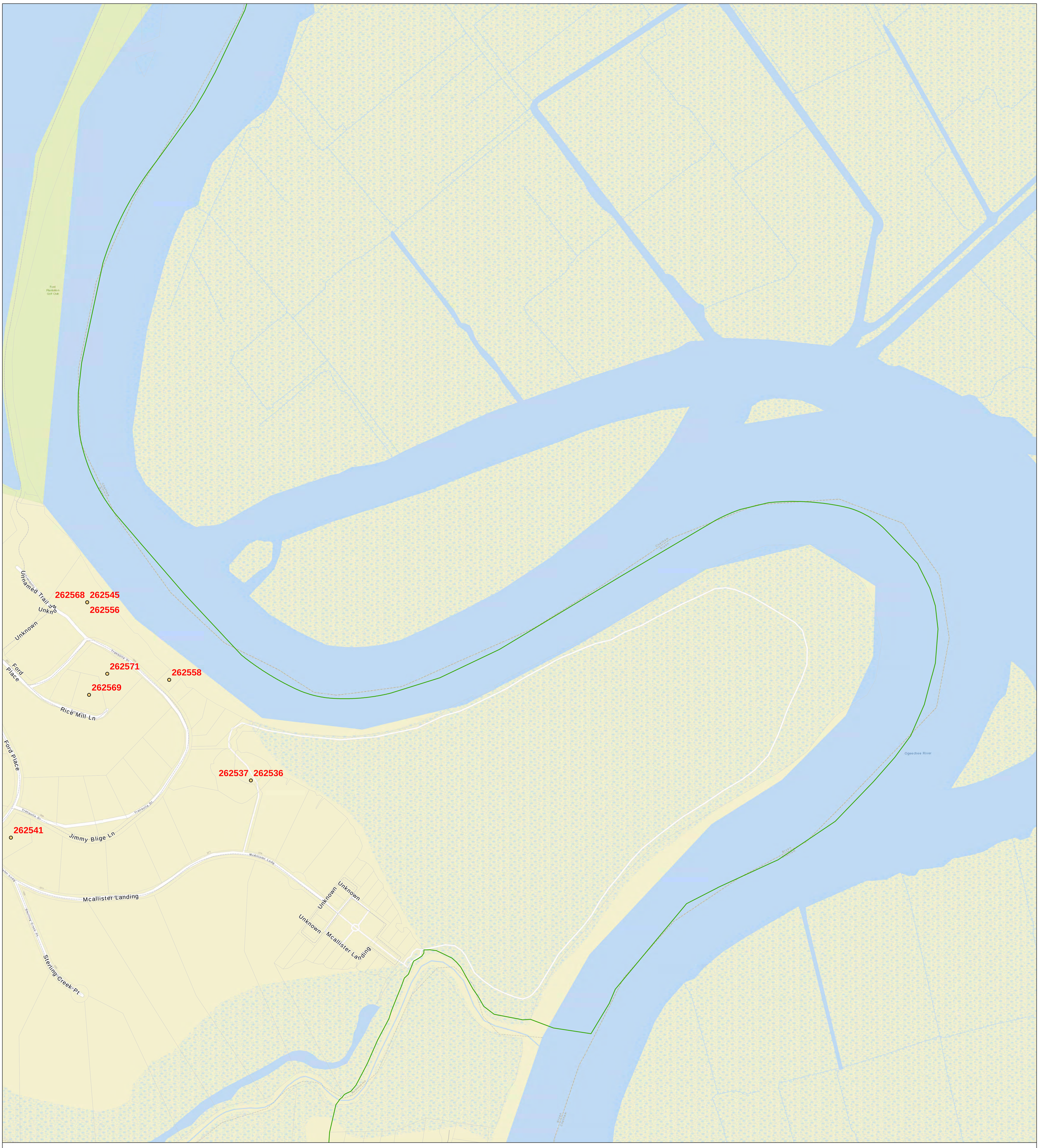

Richmond Hill Historic Resources Survey

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The Architecture of Henry Ford

Unique to Richmond Hill, the buildings constructed by Henry Ford are historically significant for their association with the automobile magnate. Moreover, they embody Ford's values and vision for the town of Richmond Hill. In addition to their social significance, these buildings reflect the plantation style of architecture common in the South, as well as the paternalistic ethos embodied by Ford.

With the purchase and restoration of several area plantations by Ford after his arrival in 1925, he would have been influenced, or at the very least been made aware of, their common architecture and style. It was Clara Ford's wish that the Ford's Richmond Plantation house be in the plantation style. After discovering the ruins of the circa 1838 Richmond Plantation house, burned by Sherman's troops in 1864, "Clara decided she wanted to build a southern-style home in that exact spot."

Photo 39: The circa 1845 Kilkenny Plantation, built by the largest grower of Sea Island Cotton on Bryan Neck, Charles W. Rogers. The house was purchased and restored by Henry Ford in 1930.

Photo 40: The Folly Farms plantation in Bryan County circa 1925. The home of Mrs. Samuel Pennington Rotan, who provided medical assistance to the people of Ways Station. When Ford arrived, Ford worked to amplify her program.

Photo 41: Slave dwelling originally associated with Cherry Hill Plantation, purchased and restored by Henry Ford in the 1930s (now demolished).

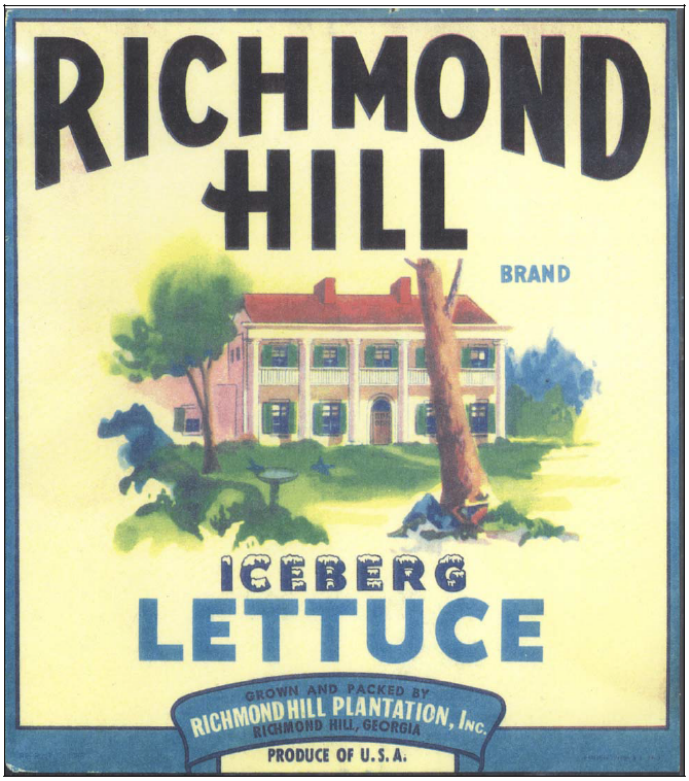

Figure 12: Lettuce advertisement and packaging graphic used by Henry Ford, depicting an idealized southern plantation setting.

Ford's sentiments regarding the plantation aesthetic is further reflected in use of an idealized plantation setting as the packaging label for the crates of lettuce produced by his company, Richmond Hill Plantation, Inc.

There were several common threads amongst the buildings built by Henry Ford for the people of Ways Station. These elements could be traced to the design and aesthetic of nearby plantations. Although simplified, Ford used these stylistic elements to root the buildings in the architecture of the region and provide a sense of place and commonality to the structures he built. Constructed relatively quickly to provide residents with inexpensive options for housing, shopping, and other needs, the buildings utilized local materials for streamlined production.

With the construction of a sawmill for this purpose, the mill not only provided lumber for construction but also jobs to the community for the milling of raw material, fueling the construction of community buildings. As a result, the buildings built by Ford were strictly wooden structures, catering to quick erection and affordability.

All buildings built by Ford were one story tall, clad in clapboard or board and batten siding, with wood doors and windows, all of which were painted white. Each building sat on a brick foundation and was capped by an asphalt shingle roof, with minimal architectural detail. Ford commercial buildings generally had more detail with more varied window types, roof cupolas, and other elements. Residential buildings were more minimal in design with the exception of the houses fronting Ford Avenue and those associated with the school along Maple, Linwood, and Ivey Streets. These houses are larger and have more detail

and were built for specific employees and positions; their importance reflected in these design differences.

Elements of Ford Era Architecture

So, how can you tell it's a Henry Ford building? Several key elements are good indicators of a Ford-built building in Richmond Hill. The architectural style employed by Ford was his own vernacular. Influenced by his surroundings, it is sometimes referred to today as the "Plantation Plain" style. With only two modifications, the replacement of the house's porch posts and door, the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1450)** at 177 Laurel Street in the Blueberry Village is an excellent example of a Henry Ford era residence.

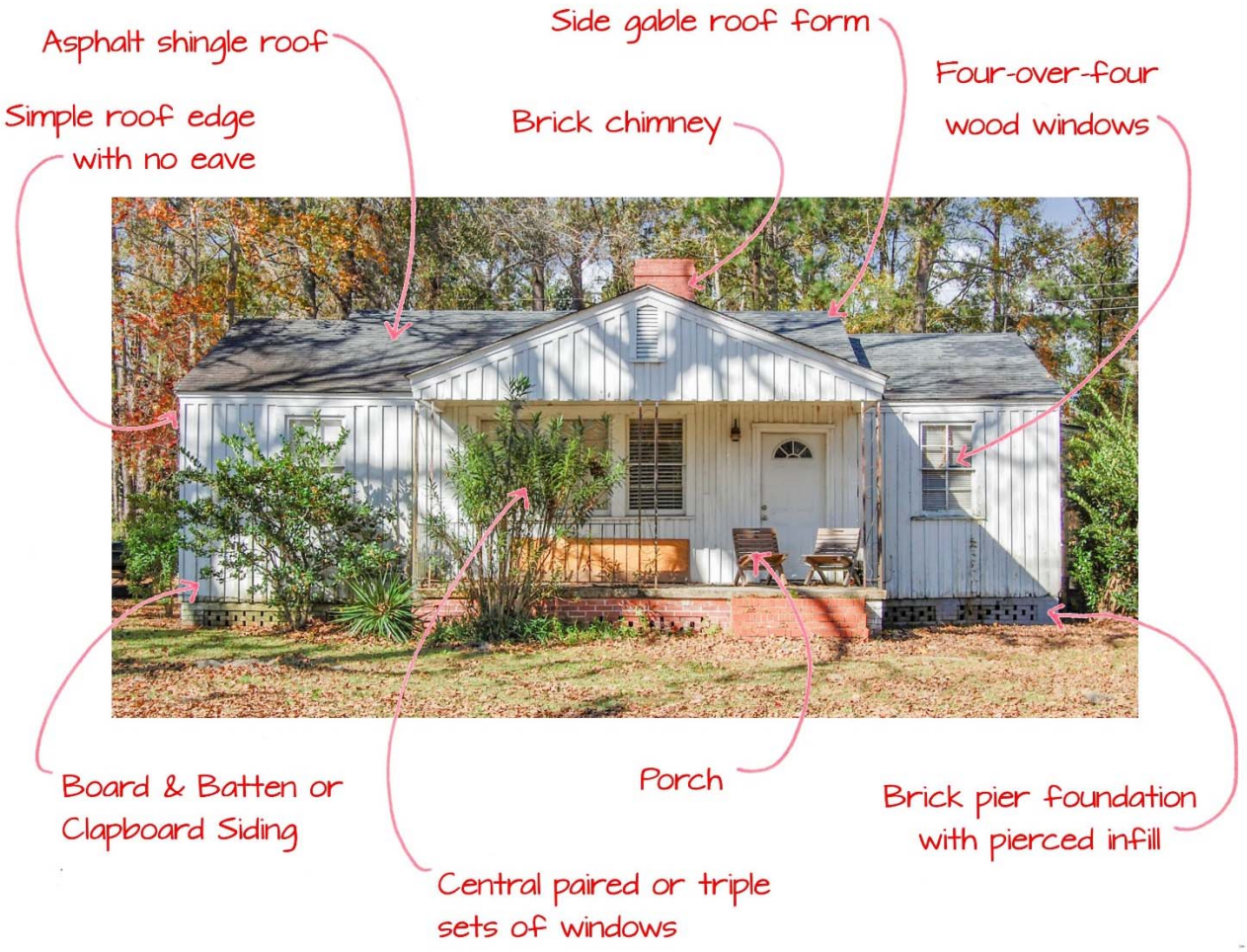

Figure 13: Residential features graphic, 177 Laurel Street

Likewise, the recently restored **Ford Bakery (GNAHRGIS #262725)** at 10750 Ford Avenue serves as an excellent example of Ford's architectural aesthetic in the commercial form.

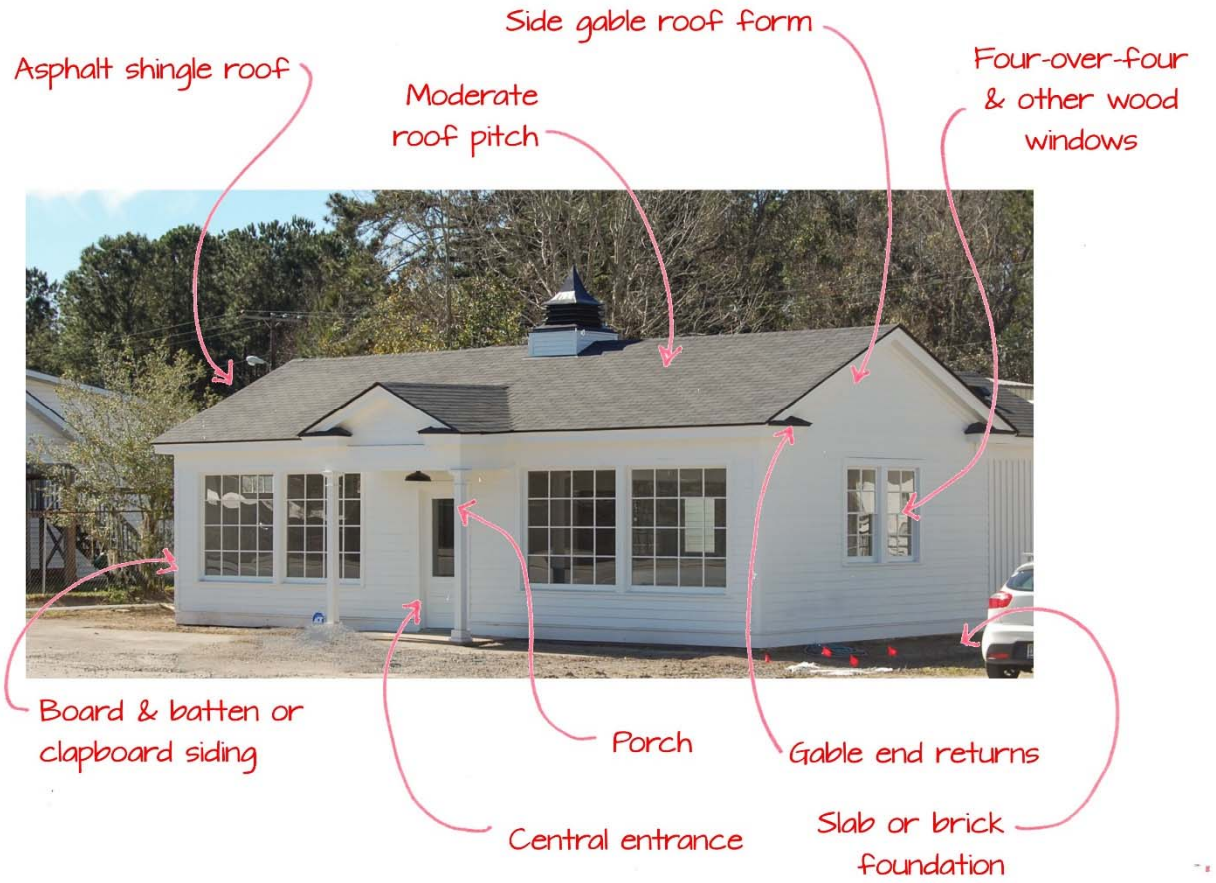

Figure 14: Commercial features graphic, Ford Avenue

The Bottom & Blueberry Village

With the construction of Richmond Hill Village (The Bottom) and Blueberry Village, several house designs were selected. As such, house types and their variants are repeated throughout the neighborhood. Most featured integral porches, brick chimneys, and matching brick culverts due to the neighborhood's low-lying nature.

Historic Images

Photos 42 and 43: Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1369) at 294 Cherokee Street. Note the standing water in the historic image. Elements evidenced in the historic image include wood stairs, board and batten siding, and exposed rafter tails. The paired corner windows were a repeated element in The Bottom. Although modified with artificial siding and a replacement porch baluster, the house's original three-by-three bay form, two-over-two windows, and brick chimney remain.

Photos 44 and 45: Bailey Carpenter House (GNAHRGIS #1381) at 297 Magnolia Street. This three-by-three bay house has minimal eaves, a recessed corner porch, paired windows, an internal chimney, and a period garage. Although altered with artificial siding and replacement windows, the house's original form remains intact.

Figures 46 and 47: Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #262780) at 230 Cherokee Street. Although heavily modified, it is still possible to see the massing of this original Ford era house. Originally, this house had paired, corner, wood casement windows, exposed rafter tails, and wood porch baluster.

Repeated Forms

Cross Gable with Clusters

Photos 48 and 49: The Carpenter House (GNAHRGIS #1377) at 317 Magnolia Street and the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1385)** at 201 Magnolia Street exhibit the same house form. The form features a cross gable roof, recessed entry porch, paired and triple windows, a lower side gable projection recessed in the first bay, and the Ford-era front gable garage seen throughout The Bottom.

Central Recessed Porch

Photos 50-52: The **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1376)** at 345 Magnolia Street, the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1390)** at 116 Magnolia Street, and the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #262779)** at 148 Cherokee Street all exhibit the same form. Modifications vary but this Central Recessed Porch house form remains visible, showcasing a three-bay side gable house with recessed central porch.

Front Gable Bungalow

Photos 53-56: Similar in form, the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1378)** at 254 Magnolia Street and the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1400)** at 294 Mimosa Street in The Bottom have the same massing, however the floor plan has been flipped, as seen in the window placement. The house on the right also has a one-story extension that was added later. In the Blueberry Village, the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1457)** at 88 Laurel Street and the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS # 1471)** at 87 Spruce Street are also mirror images of the same design, with minor differences and modifications.

Cross Gable Three-by-Three

Photos 57-60: With a massing of three-by-three bays, this house type is easily recognizable. The **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1396)** at 184 Mimosa Street, **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1412)** at 111 Mimosa Street, and the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1416)** at 147 Pinecrest Street are identical houses. The house at 184 Mimosa Street has an added porch at the rear of the side elevation. Although not original to the type, all three have matching aluminum awnings. The **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1418)** at 183 Pinecrest Street is a mirror image of this same form.

Side Gable with Central Porch

Photos 61-68: The single most common sub-type, the Side Gable with Central Porch house form can be seen in several locations within The Bottom and Blueberry Village. The **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1417)** at 167 Pinecrest Street, the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1373)** at 363 Magnolia Street, and the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1399)** at 274 Mimosa Street in The Bottom reflect this type, as do the Single Dwelling **(GNAHRGIS #1480**) at 90 Spruce Street and the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1450)** at 177 Laurel Street in Blueberry Village. Others include the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1462)** at 195 Oleander Street, the **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1461)** at 175 Oleander Street, and the

Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1460) at 145 Oleander Street in Blueberry Village. All of these houses share a similar side gable form with central two-bay front gable porch. Common modifications include roof eave extensions, replacement windows, replacement wrought iron porch posts, and artificial siding.

Simplified Cross Gable

Photos 69-73: With slight variations, the Simplified Cross Gable house is a common sub-type. Left to right: **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1413)** at 89 Mimosa Street, **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1414**) at 85 Pinecrest Street, **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1372)** at 385 Magnolia Street, and **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1401)** at 316 Mimosa Street in The Bottom, and **Single Dwelling (GNAHRGIS #1452)** at 200 Laurel Street in Blueberry Village. The last house features an extended side gable roof to incorporate a two-bay porch with the gable ell on the front façade.

Houses in Other Areas

Historic Images

Photos 74 and 75: The **Dr. Ukkelberg House (GNAHRGIS #1364)** at 10982 Ford Avenue. Although modified to include a front gable porch in keeping with the style of the house, this house showcases the larger more detailed dwellings built for those employed by Ford in managerial positions. Built for Dr. H.K. Ukkelberg, this house has a larger mass than those in The Bottom and Blueberry Village. It also features six-over-six double-hung sash windows, gale end returns, and a side gable sunporch. It has since been converted for commercial use.

Photos 76 and 77: The **Dick and Pearl Carpenter House (GNAHRGIS #1431)** at 940 Maple Street was built for the manager of the plantation cabinet shop, Dick Carpenter, and his wife Pearl, who managed the lunchrooms at the Richmond Hill and George Washington Carver Schools. The Richmond Hill School originally sat across the street from the home. Much more unique in style, the house features two matching front gable projections in the first and last bay, bisecting the house's principal side gable roof. Symmetrical in design, the house has a shed roof porch extending between these two projections. Other features include eight-over-eight double-hung sash windows and gable end returns. The house has since been clad in asbestos shingle siding.